

# HISTORY OF Fillmore County MINNESOTA

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## CHAPTER XLI

### BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

**Lives of Men Who Have Assisted in the Growth and Development of the County—Stories of the Pioneers—Genealogical Statistics—Facts Concerning the Modern Leaders—Family Histories.**

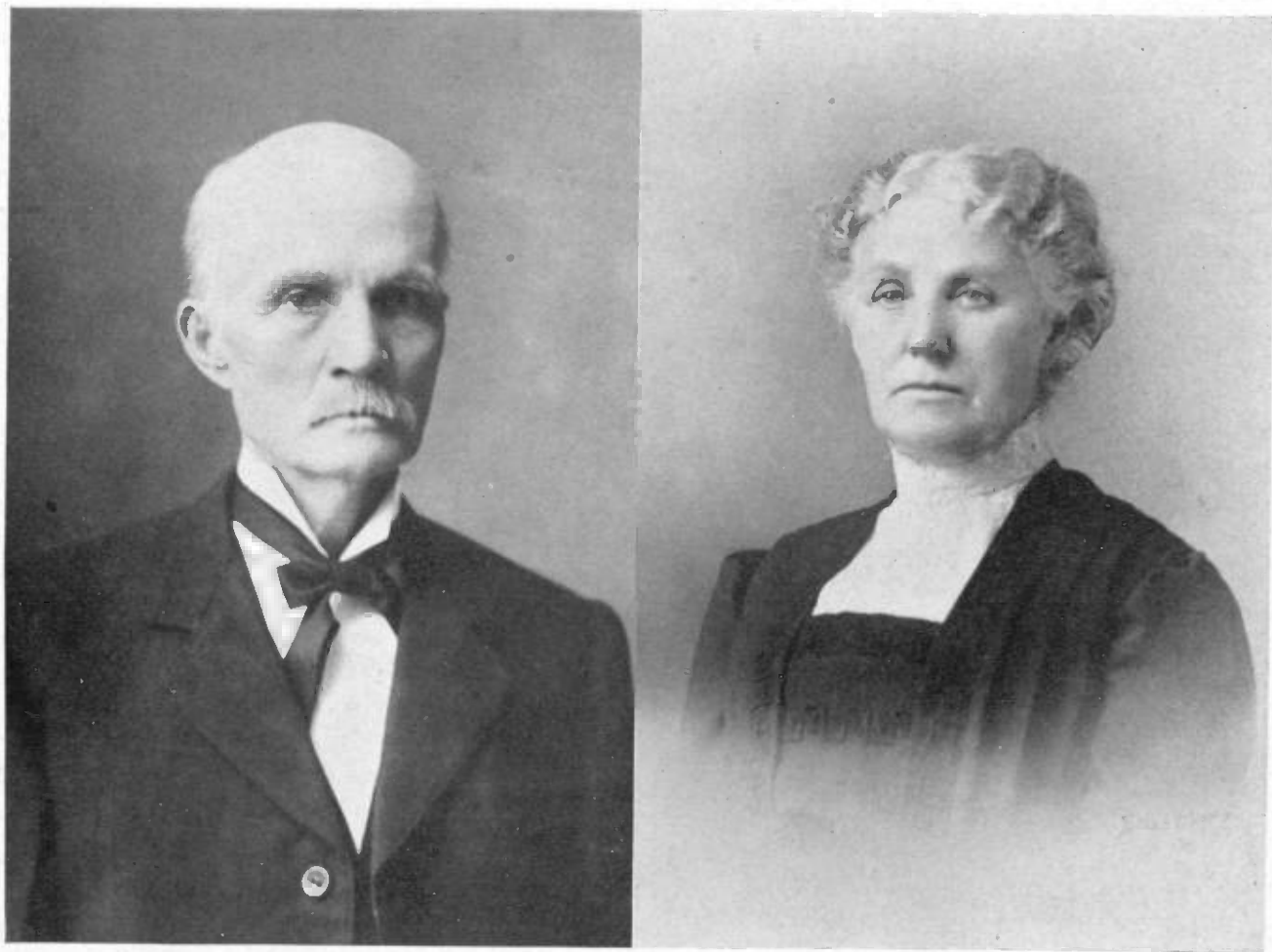
Fillmore county has given to the world many a staunch and substantial leader in public affairs. In the early days the leaders were men and women from other lands, other states and other climes, who came to this county, took an active part in public affairs, and wrote their names permanently on the pages of the county's progress. As the county became older, men went out from here to take their share in the affairs of the state and nation. But the real makers of the county are those who have pursued their lives from day to day; in the office, in the store or on the farm, not seeking honors, but doing their share whenever duty called.

In this chapter the publishers have endeavored to present the principal facts in the lives of the leading men of the county, past and present. The data has been gathered from the subjects of these biographies or from those best qualified to give the information. All the sketches have been submitted to those most concerned, and errors which may appear in any reviews are due to the subjects of the biographies or their friends, and not to the publishers.

**Henry S. Bassett** was born April 21, 1841, in Ingersoll, Oxford, Canada West.

His father, Gilbert Bingham Oscar Bassett, was born in Middlebury, Vermont, February 19, 1817, and died June 8, 1878, in Carimona, Fillmore county Minnesota. He was a citizen and subject of the United States at the time of his son's birth. Gilbert Bassett's parents, Elnathan Bassett and Lydia Bassett, were both born in New England of colonial and revolutionary stock. Elnathan's father was a soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and himself a soldier in the United States Army in the War of 1812. Lydia Bassett was the daughter of Daniel A. Buck, of Vermont, who when a mere boy in the Continental Army at the battle of Bennington lost his arm. He was afterwards for many years congressman from that state.





MR. AND MRS. HENRY S. DASSETT

Mary Smith Bassett, the mother of the subject of this sketch, was born in Ancaster, Canada West, August 1, 1816, and died July 29, 1911, at Washtucna, Wash. Her father, Samuel Smith, was born in New Hampshire and was a soldier in the regular army during the War of 1812. Her mother, Luvia Graves Smith, was born in the state of New York. The family of Gilbert and Mary Bassett consisted of six boys and four girls, of whom Henry was the third eldest child. Only four of this family are now living, who in the order of their ages are Henry S. Bassett, of Preston, Minn.; George W. Bassett, of Washtucna, Wash.; Gilbert B. O. Bassett, of Helena, Mont., and Samuel S. Bassett, of Spokane, Wash. George married Alice C. Lancaster; Gilbert, Sarah Andrews, and Samuel, Kate Hopp. Caroline A. Bassett, one of the daughters of the family, married John B. Palmer. She died in Carimona, February 9, 1893, leaving surviving her husband and four children, C. H. Palmer, of Benchland, Mont., E. L. Palmer, of Preston, Minn.; Virginia Palmer, of Ostrander, Minn., and Fannie Vailer, of Fresno, Cal. Mr. J. B. Palmer and his daughter are now residing in Ostrander, Minn. Mary Bassett, the youngest daughter, married William Harkness, of Walla Walla, Wash. She died in 1900 at Spokane in that state, leaving surviving her husband and four children, William, Charles, Mary and Marjorie Harkness.

Gilbert and Mary Bassett, with their family, then consisting of Henry and two daughters, moved from Canada West in 1844 and settled in Scott county in the territory of Iowa. At that time there was no railway westward out of Chicago and from that point the family made the journey to Rock Island, Ill., by stage and team. The country at that time was new, and few white inhabitants, and these as a general thing cultivated but a few acres, made their own clothing and depended for a living principally upon the wild game, of which there was an abundance. Many Indians were still in the country. There was a trading post or so but no real stores, or mills, or roads in the country and no schools or churches. It was then the western frontier of the States. Though Gilbert Bassett was a printer by trade, he never worked at that business while living in Iowa, but during that time was principally engaged in farming and in mercantile business and a portion of the time in operating a daily line of four and six horse stages from Dubuque west to Independence in that state, for at that time, 1850-52, there was no railway running west from Dubuque. In 1853 he with his son Henry and a daughter came to Minnesota, then a territory, to look up a location. Late in December of that year the family started in teams from Delhi, Iowa, for Forestville, in Fillmore county, Minnesota, the place selected for the new home. The family was delayed in their

journey by cold weather and snow storms for some time in Burr Oak, Iowa, but finally arrived in Forestville on January 4, 1854, where a dwelling had been purchased and a store opened by Mr. Bassett. His son, Henry, then thirteen years old, walked and drove the cows on this journey. Forestville was not then platted as a village. Winona and Brownsville in Minnesota and Decorah, Lansing and McGregor in Iowa, were their nearest market places. After the family settled in Minnesota, Mr. Bassett continued in the mercantile and farming business. A district school was established in Forestville in 1855 and maintained about half of the time which Henry attended most of the time until December, 1858, when he went to Crawfordsville, Ind., to attend Wabash College, located at that place. Prior to his going to Minnesota he had attended private and district schools to a very limited extent, so when he entered upon his college course his education it may be said was mostly acquired by his study outside of the schools. He had a good knowledge of frontier life, farming and mercantile business as carried on in a new country, and managing and caring for horses and other stock and was physically strong, active and able to undergo great fatigue and exposure. Desiring to obtain a collegiate education, as above stated, he went to Wabash College, where he took up a regular classical course and studied from January, 1859, to early in May, 1861, when, on account of the Civil War then just under way, he returned to his home in Minnesota, in order that he might obtain his father's consent to enlist in the army. He had tried to enlist in Indiana, but being under age and not having his father's consent, the authorities would not accept him. During the time he was a student at Wabash College he supported himself by his manual labor, cutting cord-wood, digging ditch, sawing wood, or doing whatever other work came to hand. After his return home he was obliged to delay entering the army until August 4, 1862. But in the meantime he aided his father in his business and taught a school of seventy scholars during the winter of 1861 and 1862 in the village of Fillmore. Having helped to raise men enough to form a company he entered the army August 4, 1862. About half of the members of the company were from Fillmore county and half from Houston county. The men rendezvoused at Fort Snelling, where they were organized as Company K in Sixth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, with W. H. Woodward as captain, W. W. Braden, first lieutenant, and H. S. Bassett, second lieutenant. Within a few days after the company was organized and before the different companies composing the regiment could unite, the Indian outbreak on the frontier and the massacre of the white settlers in the western part of the state occurred. Mr. Bassett served with his company

in the campaign under General Sibley against the Indians for the relief of Fort Ridgley, the release of the white prisoners and protection of the frontier that year. In 1863 he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and took part that year in the second campaign against the Indians. During that year he was for some time adjutant at Fort Snelling under Colonel Morgan. In the spring of 1864 the regiment was sent south to Helena, Ark., where during most of the summer of that year, Lieutenant Bassett served as assistant provost-marshal of the district of eastern Arkansas. In the winter of 1864 and 1865 his regiment was sent to St. Louis, Mo., where, until February, 1865, it was on duty. In that month it was sent to New Orleans and placed in the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, commanded by Gen. A. J. Smith. Company K, with the regiment in this corps, formed a part of the forces under General Canby in the capture of Spanish Forts, Blakeley and Mobile, and in the campaign against Montgomery, in the spring of 1865. During these campaigns Lieutenant Bassett was in command of his company, its captain being absent on detached service. The company under the command of Lieutenant Bassett returned to the state after the war closed and was mustered out at Fort Snelling, August 19, 1865. Mr. Bassett, after his more than three years' service in the army, was still unwilling to give up his college course. After resting at home for about three months, in January, 1866, he entered the University of Wisconsin and again took up his studies. In May he returned to his home in Minnesota to assist his parents to fit out for their journey to the territory of Montana. His parents and five of their children that month set out from Forestville in teams for Helena, Mont., where they arrived in September, 1866. Henry taught school in the village of Carimona during the fall and winter of 1866 and 1867. In the fall of 1867 he returned to the University of Wisconsin and resumed his studies. A military department had been established in the university, and at the request of the authorities of that institution he organized the students subject to military drill into companies, drew arms and equipments for them from the state and superintended their drilling and training during the four years he remained in the university thereafter. He not only took up and continued his regular classical course of studies in the university at this time, but also the studies of the civil and military engineering departments, and graduated on June 21, 1871, receiving his diploma and degree from each of the three departments.

He returned to his home in Fillmore county and in the fall of 1871, upon the Republican ticket, he was elected probate judge of that county. He continued to hold that office by election from

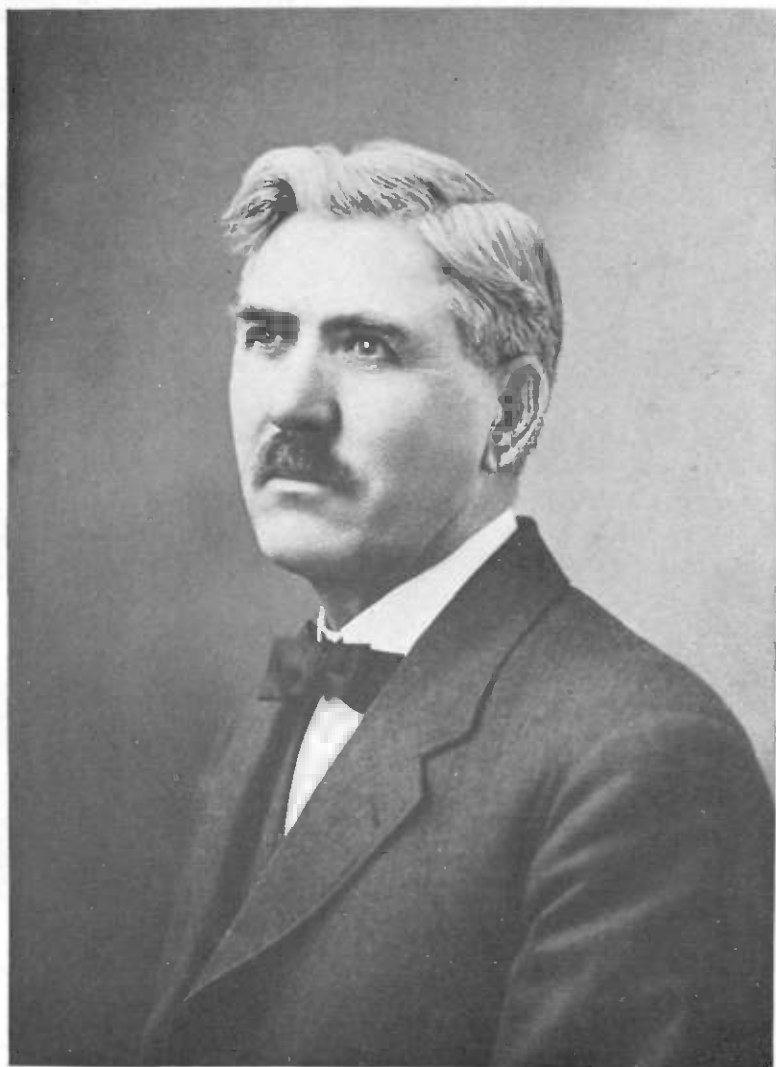
January 1, 1872, to January 1, 1882, when he voluntarily declined to be a candidate for re-election and gave his attention wholly to the practice of law, having been admitted to practice at the bar in 1874. July 12, 1882, he married Mrs. Georgiana A. Smith, at the home of her parents, in Blue Earth county, Minnesota. Mrs. Smith, at the time of her marriage with Mr. Bassett, had one son, Everett R. Smith, who continued to live with them until his marriage to Mae O'Brien some years ago, since when he and his wife have lived in their own home adjacent.

Mrs. Georgiana A. Bassett, daughter of Rev. R. S. Armstrong, a Congregational minister, was born at Lisbon, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., in 1843, and received her education in the Academy of Potsdam, in that state. She engaged in teaching at the age of seventeen and followed that profession principally until she married Mr. Bassett in 1882. She spent some years in California, crossing the Isthmus of Panama on a pack horse in going to and returning from that country in the early sixties with her husband, Mr. Smith. She and her parents and family came from the state of New York and settled in Minnesota in 1868, where she has resided ever since. Her home has been in Preston in Fillmore county since 1879. She was an able and successful teacher, enterprising and public spirited and has taken an active part in all educational enterprises of her village, and other matters for the social and moral betterment of her village and the community. For the last fifteen years and more she has given much of her time to horticulture on the home farm, where she lives adjacent to the village of Preston, where she has a fine fruit orchard.

Mr. Bassett was appointed by Governor Johnson judge of probate of Fillmore county, in April, 1907, to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Farrington, who died while holding that office, and served as such probate judge until January 1, 1909.

During his residence in Preston he was for ten years a member of the board of education of the high school. He has also served the village as mayor and village attorney. Since December, 1872, he has been engaged in the study and practice of his profession, the law, in the village of Preston.

**Christopher M. Anderson**, founder and cashier of the First National Bank, of Preston, which is one of the leading financial institutions of southern Minnesota, is one of the substantial citizens of Preston, and has shown his faith in the future of this village by his various investments here. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, January 14, 1855, son of John A. and Martha M. (Axdale) Anderson. His boyhood days were spent in acquiring a good education in his native county. At the age of fifteen years he went to Lac qui Parle county, this state, with



C. M. ANDERSON



MRS. C. M. ANDERSON

his parents, there completed his schooling, and grew to manhood's estate. He early became identified with public life and public questions. From 1880 to 1883 he was in partnership with C. J. Coghlan in publishing the *Lac qui Parle* "Press." He served as register of deeds in that county two years, as county treasurer four years, and as county surveyor a like period. In time he moved to Dawson, Minn., where he successfully engaged in the mercantile business. In the meantime he had been investigating the banking profession, and in 1889 turned his attention in that direction, founding the Commercial State Bank, of Dawson, of which he became president and cashier. After ten years' honorable service in this capacity, he went to Lime Springs, Howard county, Ia., and purchased what was known as the Bank of Lime Springs. In 1902 he came to Preston, and assisted in organizing the institution with which he is now prominently identified. In addition to this, he is a stockholder and director in the Citizens Bank, of Ossian, Ia., and president of the Peterson State Bank, of Peterson, Minn. He is one of the leading citizens of Preston, and his residence, the remodeled Weiser mansion, located on "The Ridge," is one of the finest pieces of architecture in Fillmore county. Mr. Anderson has done good service as an active member of the Preston School Board, and being of a fraternal nature, he has allied himself with Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M.; Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M.; Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T., and Osman Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. The subject of this sketch was married January 26, 1887, to Delphine Fregeau, at Fort William, Ontario, Canada. Their marriage has been gladdened by the birth of three children: Merle V., Coila M., and J. Francis. Merle Virginia was born December 9, 1887. She attended the Preston public schools and graduated from the Preston High school, afterward receiving her degree of Bachelor of Arts from the Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill. Miss Merle entered heartily into college life, was a charter member of the Alpha Omicron Pi, and an active worker in the Y. W. C. A. She was also a member of the Epsilon Eta, of the graduating class of 1911. She is now principal of public schools at Hesper, N. D. Coila Marie was born February 6, 1891, attended the Preston public schools and graduated from the Preston High school. She is now a sophomore at the Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., is a member of the Alethenai Literary Society there, and also belongs to the Alpha Omicron Pi, of which her sister was one of the founders. Julian Francis, the only son, was born February 3, 1894, and is a student in the Preston High school.

Mrs. Christopher M. Anderson, whose maiden name was Delphine V. Fregeau, was born in Superior, Wis., March 19, 1858,



daughter of Frederic and Virginia Marie (Bélanger) Fregeau, natives of Quebec, of French descent, the former being a contractor. The family located in Superior, Wis., in 1854, and were among the early settlers. In 1875 they moved to Ft. William, Canada, where the mother still lives, the father having died December 18, 1893. The daughter, Delphine, received her education in Superior, and when her family moved to Ft. William became one of the first teachers in that place, being in charge of a school two years. Then she returned to the United States and entered the Minnesota State Normal school at Winona. Thus equipped, she taught school three years in Minnesota, and later returned to Ft. William and taught three more years there. January 26, 1887, she was married in her parish church to Christopher M. Anderson, and started housekeeping in Dawson, Minn. There, Mrs. Anderson was a charter member of the W. R. C. and served as its secretary four years and as its president one year. In Preston she has served as president of the Browning Club, and is now its vice president. She has also been an active factor in the establishment of the public library here, and for two years was president of the Preston Browning Public Library Board, being now its secretary. Mrs. Anderson is a model hostess and mother, and justly takes pride in the splendid education of her three children.

**John C. Mills**, oldest son of John Mills and Sarah Ann Mills, was born October 16, 1859, on a farm in a little log hut about sixty rods west of the school house in district forty-seven, Preston township, Fillmore county. Up to the time he was seventeen, like many boys of that day, he helped to clear up a grub farm and attended the district school in the winter. Later he attended the Preston high school for three years. Then he taught school two years at each of the following places: Carimona, Mabel, Fillmore, and Wykoff. Mr. Mills was married in 1896 to Emma F. Allen, formerly county superintendent of schools for Fillmore county. He was elected county auditor of Fillmore county in 1892 over the combined opposition of the Democratic, Prohibition and Peoples parties and served eight years. During this time he was chairman of the county central committee and helped stump the county in 1894—the time of the gold standard agitation. He was a delegate to both county and state conventions many times and was one of the leaders in the Republican party. He also served as alderman of the village of Preston six years and was instrumental in establishing the public library. He was one of the organizers of the Minnesota State Breeders' Association, being its first treasurer, and holding this office thirteen years. He also helped organize the First Congressional

Live Stock Breeders' Association and was also its first secretary and treasurer for four years. He also helped organize the Minnesota State Shorthorn Breeders' Association and was its first secretary and treasurer, holding these offices two years. He was one of the organizers of the Fillmore County Live Stock Association, and was also its secretary and treasurer. He was president of the Fillmore Agricultural Society for ten years. He is a life member of the State Agricultural Society and also of the Fillmore County Agricultural Society. He has for many years been greatly interested in the introduction into the county of blooded stock of all kinds—sheep, cattle, hogs, horses, dogs and chickens. He was the first to introduce pure-bred Oxford and Hampshire Down sheep and Poland China hogs into Fillmore county. He has imported thousands of sheep and cattle from Canada, and in 1901 went to England and visited the most renowned flocks and herds of England and Scotland and the royal show at Cardiff, Wales, and made a large importation of prize winning Shropshire, Oxford and Hampshire Down sheep. He still resides at Preston and is interested in the improvement of the live stock of the country.

**Emma Frances Allen Mills** was born October 2, 1859, on a farm in Sumner township, Fillmore county, Minnesota, daughter of David Allen, and Lepha Ann Carter. She received her early education in the district school known as the Science Hill school, under the able teacher, Mrs. Georgiana Smith, now Mrs. Judge Bassett. When thirteen years old she entered the high school at Spring Valley, M. F. Varney superintendent and principal. The next year she attended select school for young people, conducted by Mrs. G. A. Smith, and that fall (1875) began teaching in the district school at Sumner Center, followed by a summer term at Hardscrabble. In 1876 she entered the State University of Minnesota and studied here four years on a six years' course. Ill health made a change a necessity, and after a vacation of a few months she resumed teaching at Hamilton, and near Chester, Iowa. In 1882 she was elected as assistant principal of the high school at Spring Valley, which position she held four and one-half years, and left January 1, 1887 only to enter upon the duties of superintendent of schools of Fillmore county, to which she was elected in November, 1886, and re-elected in 1888. In 1889 she held a private summer school at Preston, and another in 1890 at Spring Valley. In 1891 she returned to the State University and completed the course of B. L. in 1893. She was elected principal of the high school of Rochester in 1893 and re-elected the next year. In 1895 she again returned to the State University to take post graduate work. She was married

January 16, 1896, to John C. Mills, county auditor of Fillmore county and went to Preston to live. She taught summer school in the State Normal summer school work in Glenwood in 1892; Heron Lake in 1893, Lakefield in 1894, Austin in 1895 and at Jackson in 1896. She reared and educated two children: Vivien I. Dowdell and William E. Dowdell. In 1898 she was elected superintendent of the Sunday schools of Fillmore county and held annual county conventions at Cherry Grove in 1899, Rushford in 1900, and Chatfield in 1901. She employed Missionary J. E. Webber to work in the county. In 1891 she took a trip with Mr. Mills to England and Scotland. She established the Browning Club in 1898 and was appointed a member of the library board in 1908, being reappointed in 1911.

Dr. A. D. Becker, osteopathic practitioner and progressive citizen of Preston, has a high professional standing in Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri, the three states in which he is licensed to practice, and is one of the pioneers and "path finders" in his profession in this part of the country, he being among the first to go before the examining board in Minnesota, and also among the first to go before the examining board in Iowa. He was also an active worker on the legislative committee that induced the state of Minnesota to place the practice of osteopathy on its rightful level with the other legalized and recognized schools of therapeutics. The subject of this sketch was born in Austin, Minnesota, August 20, 1878, son of Marcus and Sarah G. (Blair) Becker. He attended the Austin public schools, and after the death of his father clerked in a store for a number of years. But he had ambitions toward a professional life which should lead to the alleviation of physical pain and suffering, and, accordingly, in January, 1901, he entered the S. S. Still School of Osteopathy at Des Moines, Iowa, from which institution he graduated in 1903. At once after completing his course he located at Preston, where he established a large practice, winning the respect of the community for himself and for the profession in which he is engaged. In 1908, desiring to perfect himself still further, he took a post graduate course at the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Mo. While a student there he became a member of the Stillionians and of the Atlas Club, both of which are college scientific and literary clubs. After completing his course, he was retained as one of the faculty, doing hospital work, and occupying the chairs of practice and gynecology. After three years of absence he again located in Preston, and has since won a constantly growing practice. Being an advocate of the highest ethical standards in the practice of therapeutics, Dr. Becker has allied himself with the Minnesota State Osteopathic Association,

of which he is president, and with the American Osteopathic Association. He is junior warden of Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., and a member of Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M., Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T., and of Kirksville Lodge No. 464, B. P. O. E. Dr. Becker was married October 17, 1906, to Mabel Rollins, born January 19, 1883, at Caledonia, Houston county, Minnesota, daughter of Henry M. and Ellen L. (Evans) Rollins. Dr. and Mrs. Becker have one son, Rollin Edward, born March 8, 1910. Marcus Becker was a native of New York, a millwright and stationary engineer by trade. He married Sarah G. Blair, a native of Ohio. In 1872 they came to Minnesota from Iowa, and located in Austin, where Marcus was engineer of the city water works several years. He died in April, 1891, and his wife still lives in Austin. They were the parents of six children: James died in infancy; Nora lives in Austin; Dr. A. D. lives in Preston; Hattie died in infancy; Walter is a railroad engineer, with headquarters at Ottumwa, Ia.; Ethel is a student at the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Mo., and after her graduation in January, 1913, will assist her brother, Dr. A. D., at Preston. H. M. Rollins and Ellen L. Evans Rollins, his wife, were born in New Hampshire and came to Caledonia in 1854. H. M. worked as a farmer for a while, then became postmaster at Caledonia, then became a railway mail clerk, and in 1908 was promoted to his present position as transfer clerk at the LaCrosse postoffice. Mr. and Mrs. Rollins have four children: Frederick H., a physician of St. Charles; G. L., of Preston, Charles A., a fruit grower in Washington, and Mabel, the wife of Dr. A. D. Becker, of Preston.

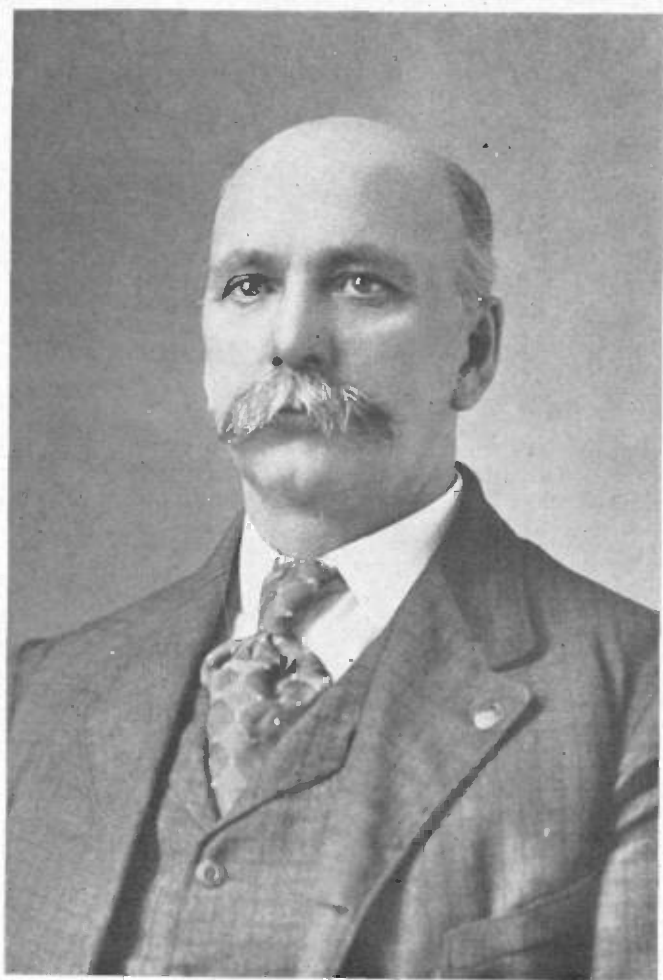
**John W. Hopp**, a prominent lawyer, and present county attorney of Fillmore county, has been a resident of Preston since the date of his birth, January 13, 1868. He received the rudiments of his education in the district school at Preston, and later attended the Minnesota State University, graduating in the class of 1891. After finishing his university course he associated himself with Henry R. Wells in the practice of law, but this firm was dissolved in 1910 and Mr. Hopp now continues in the profession entirely on his own responsibility. He has held many offices in the town and county, serving as village attorney for two terms and as county attorney from January 1, 1897, to January 1, 1903, as well as from January 1, 1909, to the present time. He is affiliated with the Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M.; Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M., and Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T., as well as with Osman Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. of St. Paul. He is also a member of the M. W. A. Mr. Hopp married Alice E. Daniels, of Winona, Minn., and they are the par-

ents of Harold D., born August 12, 1898, and Margaret E., born February 24, 1911. The parents of John W. Hopp were Michael and Eva (Letz) Hopp. The father came to the United States from Germany in 1856 and located a time in St. Joseph, Mo., before taking up his permanent residence in Preston. He died June 22, 1900, and his wife passed away May 14, 1904.

**Henry A. Larson**, the capable clerk of the district court of Fillmore county, is a native born son of this county, having first seen the light of day in Preston township June 27, 1877, son of Aslak and Carrie (Storlie) Larson, natives of Norway, now residents of Preston township. He received his preliminary education in the Lanesboro high school, and took courses in the Northern Indiana Normal college at Valparaiso, Ind., and in the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis. In the meantime he taught school two years and continued to teach a year after leaving the university. In 1902 he was elected clerk of the district court of Fillmore county. Before this he had served in minor local offices, at one time being assessor of Preston township for two years. Aside from his home in Preston village, Mr. Larson owns a farm of 120 acres in Preston township which he rents. He is a director and stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Preston, and has other interests of various kinds.

Mr. Larson is prominent as a Mason, is master of Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M.; a member of Preston Chapter 32, R. A. M.; and past commander of Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T. He is also a member of Preston Camp, No. 276, M. W. A. The subject of this sketch was married September 25, 1906, to Frances Broderick, daughter of John Broderick of Preston. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Aslak Larson**, a pioneer, now living in Preston township, is one of the honored veterans of the Civil War. He was born in Norway, came to America in 1860, and in 1867 married Carrie Storlie, also a native of the same country. After coming to this country he located in Allamakee county, Iowa, and in July, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted as a private, was promoted to corporal, saw active service in many battles and campaigns, was wounded in the face, and was discharged in Tennessee in 1866. After returning to Fillmore county he purchased 160 acres in Preston township, which he broke and developed, and where he still makes his home, being one of the substantial law abiding citizens of the county. He and his good wife are the parents of nine children: Louis, Olaf, Peter, George, Henry A., Clara, Gena, Adolph and Melia. The



M. M. BLUNT

two oldest boys have farms. Henry A. is a county official. George is in North Dakota. Adolph is a student at the State University at Minneapolis, Minn. Melia is a student at the Albert Lea College for Women in Albert Lea, Minn. The rest are at home.

**M. M. Blunt**, who has for several years done the city of Preston efficient service as alderman, is the leading hardware dealer of this vicinity. He was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, December 12, 1861, son of Frances and Deliah (Cheney) Blunt. He attended the common schools, and rounded out his education with courses in the Janetsville high school and the Silsbee Business college in the same place. After attaining young manhood he went to Huron, Beadle county, South Dakota, and engaged as clerk in a supply store for the Chicago & Northwestern. He was soon promoted to manager of the supply department, having charge of the supplies for 800 miles of road. In this position he continued fourteen years, giving great satisfaction to his employers. But he determined that he wished to be his own master instead of working for others. So he took up 480 acres of land in Beadle county, and also purchased several lots and residences in Huron, in that county. In 1896, he came to Preston and purchased the bankrupt hardware stock of Bennett & Hirsch, at the corner of St. Paul and Main streets. After thoroughly overhauling the stock he opened for business, and his success was assured from the very start. In 1905 he erected his present store building, a beautiful brick structure, thirty-four by ninety-six feet, two stories high. The lower floor is devoted to store purposes, where a full line of hardware is kept. The stock is up-to-date and the store enjoys a large trade. The upper floor is devoted to office apartments and store rooms. Mr. Blunt is a Mason, and belongs to the M. W. A. He is a Republican in politics, and was elected alderman in 1901, 1903, 1909 and 1911. The subject of this sketch was married in 1889 to Mattie L. Jones, of Rock county, Wisconsin, and they have two children. Floyd attends the Winona Business College at Winona, Minn., and Ray E. is a pupil in the Preston high school. Francis and Deliah (Cheney) Blunt were natives of New York state. They came west to Wisconsin, located in Walworth county, and there spent many years, later going to Rock county, in the same state. They were the parents of eight children: Albert E. is dead. Arthur L. is a physician in Chicago. Ella A. is a teacher in Whitewater, Wis. M. M. is a hardware merchant in Preston. Asher A. lives in California. Mrs. Ida M. Tipple lives in Whitewater, Wis. Seward is a physician in Waupun, Wis. Seymour E. is a farmer at Whitewater, Wis.

**Elling K. Blexrud**, sheriff of Fillmore county, was born in Spring Grove, Houston county, this state, April 4, 1855, son of Knud O. and Maria P. (Mokastad) Blexrud, the pioneers. He attended the district schools of Houston county, and had the advantages of courses in the Minnesota State Normal School at Winona, and the La Crosse Business College at La Crosse, Wis. After leaving school he took up clerking. In 1883 he engaged in the mercantile business in Fountain. While there he became interested in public affairs, was mayor of Fountain, was treasurer of the school board, and served in other public positions. In 1896 he was elected to his present office of sheriff, and has since been successively re-elected, having made a most courageous, plucky, discreet and successful officer. For the past ten years he has been chairman of the Republican central committee for Fillmore county. In addition to his other interests he is vice president in the Farmers and Merchants' State Bank of Preston. The subject of this sketch was married January 5, 1884, to Ingeborg Sagdalen, a native of Spring Grove, Houston county, this state. This union has been blessed with three children: Maria graduated from the Normal school at Winona, and married N. F. Saxton, of Williston, N. D. Clara lives at home. She is a graduate of the high and Thomas Normal Training school at Detroit, Mich., Kenneth, the youngest is at home. Knud O. and Maria P. (Mokastad) Blexrud were natives of Norway, came to America in 1850 and located in Wisconsin four years, after which they came to Spring Grove, Houston county, with the early pioneers. They had eight children: Ole Blexrud operates the home farm. Elling K. is sheriff of Fillmore county. Paulina is the wife of Julius Gulbrandson, of Spring Grove, Houston county. Bertha is the wife of Prof. Cornelius Narveson, now deceased, and lives in Caledonia, Minn. John Blexrud is a merchant in Caledonia. Martha is the wife of Elling Roverud, a newspaper editor in Caledonia. Ingar married Dr. Erickson and they live in Harmony, this county. Christ Blexrud is the sheriff of Houston county.

**John Taylor**, one of Fillmore county's early settlers and prosperous farmers, was born in County Dunn, north of Ireland, February 6, 1830. It was there he received his education, growing to manhood and preparing himself for his fight for success. In 1851 he crossed the briny deep, locating in New York state and remaining there six years. In 1857 he came west to Minnesota, and for sixteen years lived in Preston, where, together with his brother William, he followed agricultural pursuits. During those years he worked early and late, saving his money, and finally investing in forty acres of land in section twenty-five,



Fountain township. There he erected his home and all necessary outbuildings, and engaged in farming and stock raising. He has added to his possessions from time to time until he now owns a fine farm of 200 acres, on which he makes his home. Mr. Taylor is widely known in the community where he has for so many years resided, and is highly respected by all, both for his honest dealings and his worth as a man.

In his younger days he was widely known by the people of Preston and vicinity for his remarkable strength and durability, and having now reached the honorable age of four score and two years is still hale and hearty. It is worthy of note, from a historical standpoint, that Mr. Taylor quarried the first stone for the foundation of Fillmore county's beautiful court house, and this service he rendered gratuitously, working fourteen days. His brother William hauled timber for the same building from Winona, he also presenting his services. John Taylor has always taken an active interest and prominent part in whatever has been for the good and betterment of the county. Politically he has always affiliated with the Republican party, and his religious beliefs are those of the Presbyterian church. The parents of John Taylor were James and Sarah (Sturgeon) Taylor, both natives of the north of Ireland, but of Scotch descent. The father died in the old country. In the family were six sons and one daughter who lived to adult age. Three of the sons came to America first, and were followed by the mother, four sons and one daughter. The latter party were nine weeks and three days on the water, aboard a sailing vessel. The mother died in Preston, having nearly reached her ninety-first year. Robert died in Yonkers, Wis., leaving two daughters and a son. Thomas died in California. He served in the Civil War under General Thomas.

**Thomas I. Garratt**, cashier of the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank of Preston, who for many years has been prominently identified with the public offices of Fillmore county and Preston, was born in Jackson county, this state, August 3, 1869, son of Wilson C. and Marcella (Crosby) Garratt. He acquired his early education by attending school in Chatfield, and after completing his studies, worked as deputy for his father, who was then register of deeds in Fillmore county. In 1896, Thomas I. was himself elected to the honorable office which his father had so ably occupied in two counties, and this position of register of deeds in Fillmore county the subject of this sketch retained until the year of 1910, when he resigned to accept his present position in the then newly organized Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank. In addition to the above mentioned offices, Mr. Garratt served as deputy clerk of the District Court for seventeen years, and it is

said that no one in the county is more thoroughly acquainted with the court house records than he. In spite of his busy life and many official duties, he has found time to develop the fraternal side of his nature and has allied himself with Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. and A. M., and Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M., as well as Preston Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F. and several other orders. Mr. Garratt was married some years ago to Effa M. Terwilligar, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Terwilligar. They are the parents of two children: Gladys M. and Wilson A.

**Wilson C. Garratt**, now deceased, formerly register of deeds in Fillmore county, was born in Wellington, Prince Edward county (Prince Edward Island), Ontario, Canada, February 3, 1830. His parents were natives of New York, and returned to that state soon after the birth of Wilson C. The subject of this sketch came to Fillmore county in 1853, and first took a claim in Carimona township. In 1861 he enlisted in Company A, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served two and a half years as private. He was then promoted to quartermaster sergeant, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. He participated in the battles of Mill Spring, Perryville, Chickamauga, Siege of Atlanta, as well as in Sherman's heroic "March to the Sea," and was wounded in the battle of Resaca, Georgia. After the war, Mr. Garratt went to what is now Jackson county, in this state, and helped to organize that county, being appointed its first register of deeds. He was elected the following spring and held the office for eight years. In 1874 he moved to Chatfield, and a year later to Fountain, where he engaged in the mercantile business. In the fall of 1892 he was elected register of deeds of Fillmore county, a position which his experience and integrity made him well qualified to fill. In addition to this, he was town clerk of Fountain for two years, and president of the village council of Fountain for two and a half years. He held a notary's seal, under appointment by Gov. Lucius F. Hubbard. The subject of this sketch was married February 9, 1864, to Marcella Crosby, a native of Utica, N. Y. He died June 26, 1901, at Chatfield, Minn. His widow is still living at Chatfield.

**Hans H. Olstad**, a well thought of citizen of Preston township, owns a valuable farm of 160 acres in sections nine and ten, which is kept in an excellent state of cultivation and yields abundant crops each year. On it was erected in 1902 a large and substantial house which is one of the pleasing land marks in the township, and the commodious outbuildings bear witness to the industry and good management of their owner and builder. Mr. Olstad was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, December 17,



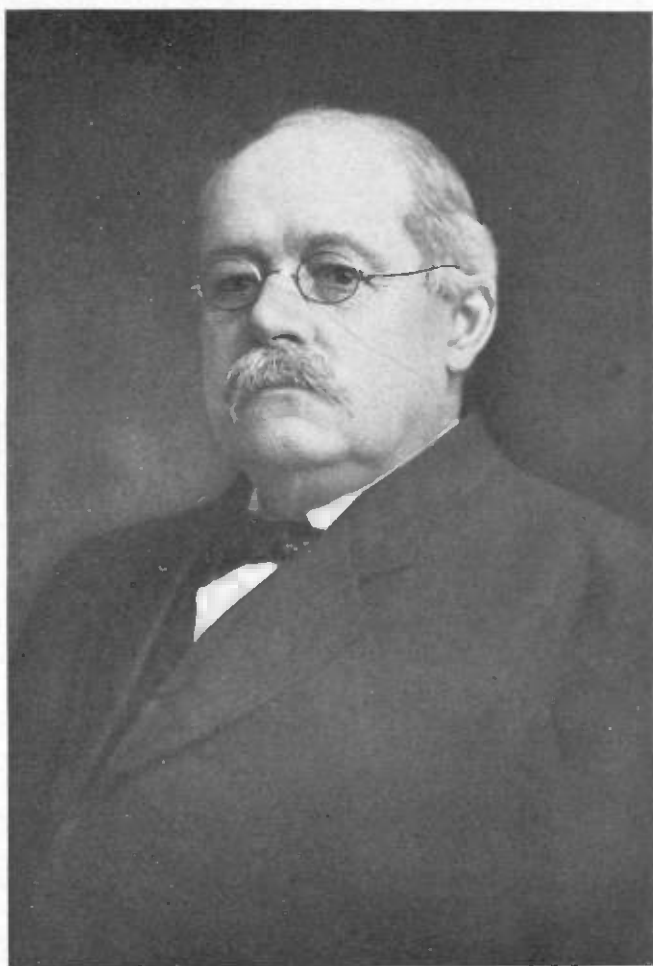
MR. AND MRS. H. H. OLSTAD

1854, parents being natives of Norway, who were married in that country and came to the United States in 1854. For two years they made their home in Wisconsin, after which migrated to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., where the father bought a farm where the family lived for twenty-six years. Then they came to Preston, where they purchased a farm in section twelve and here made their home for sixteen years. At the end of this period the family moved to another farm, where the father died in 1901, the wife and mother having passed away in 1889. Hans H., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the Larson district school and acquired his knowledge of farming by working with his father. He married Olena Grythe, born in Norway, March 8, 1854, and brought to Preston township in 1871 by her parents, Christian H. and Eliza O. (Fjelstad) Grythe, the former of whom died in 1902, and the latter in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Olstad have one son, a student in the Preston high school, of whom they are justly proud. They are both members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which they are loyal workers and contributors, and they are also prominent temperance workers, both being members of the Union Prairie Temperance Society, and Mr. Olstad being an ardent follower of the Prohibition party. He has been elected to serve as school treasurer and is a stockholder in the Preston Creamery Association.

Carl Kuethe, a prosperous merchant of Preston, has been a resident of that city since September 4, 1880. Previous to his arrival in Preston, Mr. Kuethe had spent two months in New York City after coming to this country from his native Germany. He was born July 2, 1855, son of Christian and Fredericka Kuethe, and spent his boyhood days in the home of his father, attending school and fitting himself for a successful business life. He left his old home when he was twenty-four years old. When he arrived in Preston his first position was in the store owned by Benjamin Anushinsky, in whose employ he remained for about a year and a half, after which he accepted a position with Kramer and Hard. Four years later, when this firm dissolved, he was retained by Mr. Hard, and in 1889, taken into partnership by him. The firm then became known as Hard & Kuethe until 1904, when they incorporated under the firm name of Hard & Kuethe Company, taking in William Kuethe. In September, 1883, Mr. Kuethe was united in marriage with Elizabeth Mueller, and they are the parents of five children, of whom Emma S., is the wife of Jonathan N. Webster; Marie M., married Rev. E. C. Kumpf; Harold is attending college at Clinton, Ia., and Reuben and Hortense live at home. Mr. Kuethe owns one of the most picturesque and substantial residences in the village of Preston, the beauty

of which is greatly enhanced by being entirely surrounded by a well kept hedge. As a leading citizen of the village, Mr. Kuethe is actively interested in promoting civic improvement, and in every respect he is a public-spirited man. He is now and has been a member of school board for fourteen years, and has also served on the city council of Preston.

**George W. Hard**, of the Hard & Kuethe Company, leading merchants of this vicinity, is one of the substantial, respected citizens of the county, and has taken his share in the progress and upbuilding of the village of Preston since the closing days of the Civil War. He was born in Broom county, New York, December 2, 1843, son of Ryan and Sophia (Beach) Hard, natives of New York state, who, in 1859, brought their family west and settled in Decorah, Ia. In 1862 they moved to Buena Vista county, Iowa, and there the father engaged in farming. He was a hunter and trapper, and in 1872 started on a hunting trip through the Dakotas, taking with him \$400.00 with which to purchase furs. Nothing was ever heard of him. The son George made many trips, offered large rewards, and followed many clues, but all to no purpose. The broken hearted wife and mother remained on the home farm a while, and then went to live with her daughter in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa. Later the son, George, purchased a farm in Preston for his mother and sister. After the marriage of the sister, the mother came to live with the son, George, and here ended her days in 1910 at the age of ninety-one years. George W., the subject of this sketch, was at Decorah, Ia., when the Civil War broke out, and in the spring of 1862 went to Winona, where he enlisted in Company A, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, but was honorably discharged at Fort Snelling the following year for disability. In 1864 he re-enlisted, this time in Company F, Forty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. In 1865 he came to Preston and followed his profession of photographer three years. In 1868 he was chosen deputy county auditor, and served five years under C. H. Conkey and four years under Aldis Bartlett, after which he was himself elected county auditor and served three terms, or six years. In 1881 he engaged in the general mercantile business with A. H. Kramer as partner. In 1885 Mr. Hard purchased his partner's interest, and continued the business alone until 1889, when he formed a partnership with Carl Kuethe. In 1904 William Kuethe was admitted to the firm, and the company was incorporated as Hard & Kuethe Company. Mr. Hard has been mayor of Preston several years, as well as a member of the council many terms. He is an enthusiastic member of the Masons and belongs to Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M.; Preston



GEORGE W. HARD

Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M., and Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T. He is a past master and the present treasurer of the Blue Lodge, has been through practically all the offices of the Chapter, and has been Eminent Commander of the Commandery several years. He is also a member of Underwood Post, No. 125, G. A. R. It is worthy of note that Mr. Hard, with S. C. Barton and H. R. Wells, built the first creamery in Preston, and possibly the first in the county, being manager of the concern for several years. It is, however, not in his success as a merchant or as a public official or as a fraternity man that Mr. Hard has taken his greatest joy, for his deepest pleasure has been in his home and in his children. He was married December 29, 1876, at Halstead, Kan., to Eva J. Kurtz, who died in June, 1894. This was the first wedding ever held in Halstead. Mrs. Hard was a lady of beautiful, gracious character, and her personality sweetened the lives of all with whom she came in contact. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hard was brightened with four children: Hattie Luella, Roy A., Dora and Nora, the latter being twins. Hattie L. is now the wife of Dr. F. C. Hoffer, of Lorain, O., and they have two children, Malisse and George Edward. She is a graduate of the school of elocution of the Northwestern University, at Evanston, Ill. Roy A. is farming in Alberta, Canada. He married Stella Morgan. The twins, Dora and Nora, attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, at Oberlin, O., and there met two young men who afterwards became their husbands, the wedding being a double one, performed in the Hard home in Preston. Dora's husband is Paul F. Haase, M. D., of Cleveland, O., and Nora is the wife of Roy D. Demmer, a hardware merchant, of East Palestine, O. All the children are graduates of the Preston High school.

Ole Nelson, Preston's oldest blacksmith, was born July 17, 1848, at Hoffsdar, Norway, and attended the schools in his native land. When he was twenty years of age, he decided to seek his fortune in America, and accordingly crossed the briny deep in 1868, and came west to Preston. For three years he was employed by his brother, Peter in his blacksmith shop, and at the end of this time entered into partnership with his brother, and this firm continued until 1905. Mr. Nelson then went into business entirely on his own responsibility, and has been most successful, having been engaged in blacksmithing for forty-five years, a greater length of time than any other man in Preston. That he has gained the confidence and respect of his fellow men is shown by the fact that he has always enjoyed a good trade, as well as by the fact that he has served as alderman of the village for five years. He married Hannah Wilson, of Illinois, and they have had seven children. Nels Benoni is a graduate of

the civil engineering department of the State University of Minnesota. Adolph P. is register of deeds of Fillmore county. Olga is teaching school in Montesano, Wash. Orvis is a farmer in Preston township. Winifred and William are attending the high school at Preston. Alma is dead.

**Adolph P. Nelson**, register of deeds, a progressive young business man who has always been a resident of Preston, was born June 22, 1884, son of Ole and Hannah (Wilson) Nelson. His education was acquired in the district school 45 of Preston, and later in the Minneapolis Business College, after which he was made deputy auditor and treasurer, and was chosen to fill this office for three successive years. February, 1910, he was appointed register of deeds, this appointment being made by the board of county commissioners. In September of that year he was chosen at the primaries and elected to the office in November. As he is a young man of sterling qualities, he will, no doubt, occupy many important offices in community and county.

**J. L. Kramer**, a retired wagon manufacturer, has been a resident of Preston for thirty-five years, and in all that time has maintained a reputation as an honorable and upright citizen. He was born in Germany June 22, 1845, son of William and Caroline (Schmidt) Kramer, who came to America in 1866 and settled in LaCrosse, Wis., where they remained for three years. They later removed to "Mormon Cooley," in LaCrosse county, where Mr. Kramer died in November, 1884, and his widow in March, 1906. They were parents of five children: August, of "Mormon Cooley;" Augusta, now Mrs. Karow, of Columbus, Wis.; J. L., of Preston; Charles C. and Fred, now deceased. J. L., the subject of this biography, acquired his education in Germany and came to the United States with his parents when he was twenty-one years of age. He learned the wagonmaker's trade in LaCrosse, Wis., and later worked at this industry in Milwaukee, Sparta and LaCrosse. In 1875 he came to Minnesota and located in the village of Preston, where for three months after his arrival he was employed by Jake Kramer. He afterwards formed a partnership with George Renner and made wagons and did general repairing. This partnership continued for nearly two years, after which Mr. Kramer purchased his partner's interest in the business and conducted the work on his own responsibility. He made a specialty of farm and lumber wagons, which were known as "The Preston Wagons." The good quality of his product and the success with which he managed his business enabled him to retire from the activities of his trade in 1910, and he is now residing in Preston, enjoying many of the com-



forts and luxuries of life. Mr. Kramer married Mary R. Mueller, a daughter of John and Marie M (Pflugfelder) Mueller of Harmony and their home has been gladdened by six children: John William C., born March 3, 1882, is now engaged in farming on his parents' property in this county. Arnold Otto, born September 11, 1884, graduated from the Preston high school in 1902, entered the Minnesota State University that fall and graduated in 1906; was a professor in Wortburg College at Clinton, Iowa, and is now in the manufacturing business in Milwaukee. Edward R., born November 24, 1886, graduated from high school and later entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, from which institution he received his diploma and is now practising in Letcher, S. D. William A., born April 25, 1889, works on the home farm. Miriam R., born October 1891, graduated from Preston high school, and is a teacher. Luella M., born September 23, 1896, is a student in the Preston high school. Politically Mr. Kramer is an Independent Republican, favoring the man who is qualified for office, rather than one selected by a party. He is a respected member of the German Lutheran church, which he has attended and to the support of which he has liberally contributed during the many years of his residence in the village of Preston.

**John Mueller**, now deceased, was one of the pioneers of this county. He was born in Germany April 12, 1831, and came to America in 1854, locating in Michigan. Two years after he arrived in the United States he met and married Magdalina Pflugfelder, who was born in Germany July 23, 1832, and came here when she was twenty-two years old. Soon after their marriage they left Michigan and came to Minnesota, where Mr. Mueller preempted a claim near Big Spring. Here for nearly twenty years he and his worthy wife lived and followed general farming. In 1876 they moved to a farm east of Preston, where they resided until 1894, at which time they moved into Preston village. To them five children were born, of whom three are now living: Mrs. J. L. Kramer, Mrs Carl Kuethe and Mrs. Albert Kriese, all of Preston. Mrs. Mueller, the devoted wife and mother, entered into rest November 23, 1908, and the following year, on October 21, 1909, her life's partner was summoned to the Great Beyond.

**William Selee**, an old settler of Fillmore county, came to this locality in 1856 and took a preemption claim of 160 acres in Holt township. He broke and developed his land, bringing it to a high state of cultivation, and there built his home and necessary outbuildings, and engaged in farming for the balance of his days. He passed away April 19, 1903. He was married to Harriet A.

Stewart, who always proved an able helpmate, a kind wife and a loving mother. She preceded her husband to the Great Beyond in the year 1877. They were the parents of two children: Nettie L. and Elanor. Nettie L. is the wife of Patrick Buck and they have one child, George W. Elanor is the wife of Joseph Dunford, an implement merchant of Canton.

**Charles M. Foote**, respected citizen of Preston, and veteran of the Civil War, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, August 6, 1828, son of Samuel and Mary Ann Foote, of New York and Vermont respectively. After their marriage this couple lived several years in St. Lawrence county and then moved their household to Ohio, where the father continued his agricultural pursuits. In 1850, they left Ohio, and farmed for five years in Illinois. Then they came to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore county, where the father purchased 160 acres of land, on which, for nine years, he conducted general farming. He eventually disposed of his property and moved into the village of Preston, where he and his worthy helpmeet entered into rest. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are now living: Charles M., of Preston; Alfred, a resident of Colorado; James and Lucy, now Mrs. Woodford, living in California. Charles M., the eldest, is the subject of this biography. He received his early education in the district schools, living with his parents in New York, Ohio, Illinois and Minnesota. In March, 1857, he married Jane Hanks. Five years later he enlisted in Company D, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served in the Indian expedition from 1862 to 1864, after which he went south with his regiment and fought for the Union until the close of the war, when he received an honorable discharge and returned to Minnesota. Later he purchased 160 acres of land located in the township of Fountain. He eventually sold this farm to M. T. Grattan and moved into the village of Preston, where for twenty years he was engaged in the livery business, during which period he drove a stage between Preston and Isinours. His devoted wife passed away April 1, 1910, and her death is sincerely mourned by Mr. Foote and his three daughters: Virginia, who keeps house for her father in Preston; Nellie L., a teacher; Charrie, the wife of W. E. Long, of Des Moines, Ia. Mr. Foote now lives a retired life, surrounded by friends and neighbors, by whom he is held in great esteem. He attends the Presbyterian church, and affiliates with the Republican party. He is a member of Underwood Post, G. A. R., and for several years was its commander. For four successive years he was elected to the office of marshal of Preston, in which capacity he rendered praiseworthy service.

**Wendell B. Grinnell, M. D.**, was born in Fredonia, Wis., April 23, 1873, son of William E. and Margaret (Burrell) Grinnell. William E. was a native of Oswego, N. Y., and came to Saukville, Wis., with his parents, Allen and Algeline (Wakelee) Grinnell, when he was a young lad. As he grew to manhood he learned the occupation which his father had followed and became a successful farmer. Wendell B., the subject of this biography, attended the graded schools in his home town and after completing their course, went to Oskosh, Wis., where he entered the Normal school. When he was but sixteen years of age he was granted a teacher's certificate and then taught school at Fort Washington, Wis., for three years. At the conclusion of his services as a teacher, he entered the Milwaukee College of Medicine, and later attended the medical department of the University of Illinois, at Chicago, from which institution he graduated in 1900. Dr. Grinnell began to practice the profession for which he had so ably prepared himself in the town of Wycoff, Minn., and there met with decided success. He came to Preston in 1901 and has built up a large and lucrative practice in this town, where his skill and devotion to duty have won the confidence of the residents of the entire community. He has affiliated himself with various social organizations of Preston, being a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery of the Masons, as well as belonging to the Odd Fellows. He is county coroner of Fillmore county, and United States pension examining surgeon.

**Dr. Henry Jones**, the highly esteemed and well known resident dentist of Preston, first saw the light of day at Nashville, O., March 13, 1845. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm in Nashville, O., and attended school near his home. At the beginning of the struggle between the North and South he enlisted in Company B, Sixtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front. He was wounded in the battle of Petersburg, which caused him to be detained in a hospital in Philadelphia for a period of ten months. After his release he was honorably discharged and returned to his home in Nashville. He then went to Prophetstown, Ill., and became a student in the Franklin Institute during the years of 1866-67, and studied medicine with Dr. J. H. Mosher. In 1869 he entered Rush Medical College in Chicago and graduated in 1871, after which he came to Minnesota and established a practice in Preston. He took up the study of dentistry in 1882 and has since given this profession his most careful attention. Bertha A. Loomis became his wife on December 24, 1874, and to them was born a son, Charles Henry, who died when only ten months old. Four years after her marriage the mother was also summoned by death. Dr. Jones married

Ella Gray, June 19, 1881, and they are parents of three children: Millie M., of Chicago; Rodney C., of Wallace, Idaho; Mabel, deceased. Dr. Jones is an independent voter and a prominent member of Underwood Post, No. 122, G. A. R., of which for more than seven years he has been commander. He attends the Presbyterian church, belongs to Preston Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F., and Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. and A. M., and is highly respected for his virtues, attainments and labors.

William Jones, now deceased, was a native of the state of Ohio, where for the greater portion of his life he was engaged in farming. He married Sarah Collier, also of Ohio, and in 1866, they came to Whiteside county, Illinois, where he met with a railroad accident which eventually cost him his life. Mrs. Jones passed away in 1896, and was survived by her husband ten years. To this estimable couple eleven children were born, of whom eight are now living; Henry, a successful doctor of Preston, Minn.; Mary, now Mrs. Wright, of McPherson, Kan.; Susan, now Mrs. Rose, of Walnut, Ill.; Sylvester, of Canton, Kan.; Samuel, living in Granbury, Tex.; Evangeline, now Mrs. Warner, of Morrison, Ill.; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Hunter, of Omaha, Neb., and William A., of Rifle, Colo.

John Kingsbury, one of Preston's pioneer residents, now deceased, came to this county from New York in the fall of 1852. He was a son of English parents and spent his boyhood years in Boonville, Oneida county, N. Y., where he was born June 12, 1828. After completing his education in the country schools located near his old home, he decided to seek his fortune in the West, where many opportunities were offered to young men of energy and determination. Upon his arrival in Minnesota, he pre-empted a claim of 160 acres of land in Canton township. This wild land he cleared, broke and cultivated, and on it erected a rude log cabin, which in later years was replaced by a comfortable frame house of modern architecture. He also built commodious barns and the necessary out buildings and engaged in general farming until 1896, when he retired from the activities of a farmer's life and moved into the village of Preston, where he passed his remaining years in the home which he purchased on "Oak Ridge." He was a Republican in his political views and a loyal member of the Methodist church, to the support of which he was a liberal contributor. His death, which occurred on September 8, 1910, was sincerely mourned, not alone by the members of his family, but by the residents of the community in which he had lived for fourteen years. He was a man whose sterling qualities won the respect and esteem of all who knew

him. Mr. Kingsbury married Cordelia West, July 25, 1854. She was born in Adrian, Lenawee county, Mich., March 13, 1835, and came to Fillmore county, October 18, 1853. To Mr. and Mrs. Kingsbury eight children were born: Walter, married and living in Wayne, Neb., is a wheat buyer; he has four children, Charles C., John M., Florence M. and Raymond; Clara married O. W. Kingsbury and they have two children, Clinton and Muriel. Charles married Lena Larsrud, and they are the parents of four children, Arthur, Harold, Raymond and Alvin. Edyth E. lives at home and looks after the welfare of her aged mother. Eva A., S. Victor, Josie and Fannie are deceased. Mrs. Kingsbury taught the second school ever taught in Decorah, Ia. It is claimed that Mr. and Mrs. Kingsbury were the first couple married in what is now Fillmore county.

George A. Love, M. D., ten years mayor of Preston village, is one of the prominent men of southern Minnesota. Kindly, capable and self sacrificing, he well fulfills the ideal of the village physician, and his true worth is written on the hearts of those by whose bedsides he has ministered in the hours of sorrow and suffering. The subject of this sketch was born in Woodstock, McHenry county, Ill., March 3, 1853. When he was but an infant his parents, Robert and Agnes (Dickson) Love, moved to Manchester, Ia., and in June, 1856, they came to Minnesota, locating with the early pioneers in York, this county. In 1867, George A., then a young country boy, arrived in the village in whose mayoralty chair he was so honorably to serve in after years. He studied three years in the public schools, and then took up the study of medicine in the office of Dr. John A. Ross. In 1871 he went to Chicago, and entered the Bennett Medical College. After graduating from that institution in 1874, he returned to Preston and for two years engaged in the practice of medicine in partnership with his preceptor. Since that time, until he received his son, George R., as a partner several months ago, he has maintained his practice independently, being recognized at the present time as the most successful and skillful physician in Preston. Being thoroughly ethical in his practice and work, he has allied himself with the Southern Minnesota, the Fillmore and Houston, the Minnesota State and the American Medical Societies. He has been a member of the county board of health for twenty years and is now chairman of the village board of health. In political convictions, Dr. Love inclined strongly toward the Democratic party, though he has independent views, favoring the man qualified for office, rather than the one selected by the party leaders. As a prominent fraternity man, Dr. Love is well known, being a member of Preston

Lodge, No. 36, A. F. and A. M.; Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M.; Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T., and Minneapolis Consistory, No. 2, Scottish Rites, as well as of Preston Lodge, No. 1, I. O. O. F., and Preston Camp, No. 276, M. W. A. George A. Love and Mary J. Kingston, daughter of Rev. William Kingston, were married March 5, 1877, and this union has been blessed with eight children: Claude (now deceased), Bessie, George R., William J., Fred, Elwin, Helen and McClaren. Bessie is the wife of R. A. Swetland and lives in Omaha. George R. graduated from the medical department of the University of Minnesota, and is now practicing medicine with his father. William J. is a student in the Northwestern Dental College. Fred is a senior in the State University of Minnesota.

Elias Lint, familiarly known as 'Squire Lint, has long been an estimable and highly respected citizen of Preston, and has held the office of justice of the peace in that town for the past thirty-six years. He first saw the light of day in Summerset county, Pennsylvania, June 29, 1829, and came to Minnesota when he was twenty-six years old. His parents, Jacob and Susana (Klingeman) Lint, were natives of Pennsylvania, and spent their lives there. The father was a farmer, saw mill owner and cooper. He passed away at the extreme age of ninety years and eight days, and the mother entered into rest when a young woman of forty-four years. Elias, subject of this sketch, was the third child in a family of eleven. He acquired his early education in the district schools of Summerset county, and after leaving school, learned to operate a saw mill and was engaged in this occupation until he was twenty-two years old, at which time he took up carpentry work, which he followed until he came to Minnesota. His first home in this state was in Elliot. On April 4, 1855, he settled in Carluona and was employed by the Picketts in a mill for three months, after which he took a claim of eighty acres in Preston township. Here he built a log cabin in which he lived until the following year, when he moved into Preston village and again resumed his trade as carpenter. In 1900 he retired from active business life, though his interest in the general welfare of the village has never ceased. He married Eliza Shook, of Summerset county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1851, and to them have been born four children: Harley, a resident of California; Amy, living at home; Lizzie, living in Los Angeles, Cal.; Clara, now deceased. In politics, Mr. Lint has ever been a Democrat, and in the early days held the office of alderman. He attends the German Reform church. He has been a Mason since 1868, and now belongs to the blue lodge, the chapter and the commandery. He served in the Indian outbreak

on the frontier in 1862, and has always been a courageous and self-reliant citizen, whose good judgment and honorable business methods, have made him eligible to the responsible office which he has occupied for so many years.

**D. K. Michener**, judge of probate, has been called one of Fillmore county's most useful citizens. In the various duties of many offices he has served the people faithfully and well, and the mere record of the work he has done is in itself a tribute to what his life has meant to the community at large. In township affairs Judge Michener has been assessor fourteen years, treasurer two years, supervisor two years, school treasurer twenty years and justice of the peace four years. He was county commissioner eight years and chairman six years. In 1884-85 he served in the lower house of the state legislature, and in 1880, 1890 and 1900 was census enumerator. He dates his present office from 1908. With all of this he has not neglected business affairs, and he has been secretary of the Fillmore Mutual Fire Insurance Company twelve years and secretary of the Fillmore Mutual Cyclone Company ten years. D. K. Michener was born in Wells county, Indiana, September 5, 1845, son of J. L. and Mary (Blackledge) Michener. He came to Fillmore county with his parents in 1856, and after completing his common school education attended the Winona State Normal school. After leaving school he continued to work on the home farm in Forestville township. He set at work with a will, made a scientific study of farm conditions, and engaged in fruit culture as well as in general farming. He improved the land in many ways, brought it to a high state of cultivation, and erected many new buildings. At the same time he taught school for a considerable period. In 1900 he rented the home farm and moved to Spring Valley for the purpose of giving his children the advantages of a good education. In Spring Valley he became a member of Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M., and also purchased stock in the First State Bank. The subject of this sketch was married July 20, 1884, at Pleasant Grove, Olmstead county, to Ida L. Blakeslee, daughter of Samuel Blakeslee. Judge and Mrs. Michener have five children: C. K. is a newspaper man in San Francisco. Clarice E. is principal of the Latin department of the St. Cloud high school and a graduate of Charlton College at Northfield. Laura E. is a student in Carlton College. Lucile A. attends the Preston high school, and Allene is in the graded schools.

**J. L. Michener**, now deceased, was one of the reformers of the old school, thoroughly convinced of the righteousness of his cause, ready to sacrifice all for his convictions, and at the same time

tolerant and liberal in his views toward those who did not agree with him. He was a William Lloyd Garrison Abolitionist, and conducted one of the stations on the old "Underground Railroad," thus helping many a slave toward Canada and liberty. He was a zealous advocate of temperance in a day when the cause was not as popular as it is now. For many years he served as chairman of his township; he was clerk for some time, and from 1872 to 1879 was one of the county commissioners. J. L. Michener was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1819, and lived with his parents until attaining young manhood. In 1839 he went to Indiana, and there engaged in farming and fruit farming until 1856 when he came to Fillmore county and purchased a relinquished claim of 160 acres in sections twenty-nine and thirty, Forestville township. There, with the exception of three years when he engaged in grain dealing in Spring Valley, he carried on general farming and fruit growing until his death, which took place December, 1897. In 1840 he married Mary Blackledge, who died May 19, 1866, leaving four children: Mrs. Rachael A. Soule, of Spring Valley, D. K., of Spring Valley, and Charles and Otis who are dead. Later he married Mrs. Mary Lucia, and to this union was born one son, Harvey L., a groceryman of Minneapolis. Mrs. Michener still lives in Fillmore county.

James P. Tibbetts, now deceased, will forever be held in honored memory as one of the founders of Preston; and to his faith in its future and his willingness to show his faith by industrial investments, Preston owes much of her present day commercial stability. James P. Tibbetts first saw the light of day in the historic old town of Bangor, Me., May 22, 1830, his forebears having settled in that state before the Revolutionary War. He remained on his father's farm in Penobscot county, Maine, until twenty-two years of age, at which time he started out to see the world. Starting with a photographer's outfit and a supply of jewelry he set out on a tour of the New England states and the Canadian provinces, going leisurely, studying the country and the people, and at the same time, making a comfortable income. In 1855 he determined to come West. Accordingly, after the usual tedious journey, he reached this county, and took up land in Harmony. The same year he came to Preston village and found the Kaercher colony busy working on the stone mill, which is still standing. Seeing the need of a hotel he at once set to work erecting a building on the present site of the store occupied by G. D. Moore. This building, when completed, was opened as the New England House, and was used for various purposes. While still retaining his property in Fillmore county and making Preston his home, he continued traveling for some years in the





JAMES P. TIBBETTS AND FAMILY

West and South, continuing the photography business, and also continuing to sell jewelry. Later as the village grew he opened a permanent photograph gallery in Preston. In 1861 he purchased the drug business which John W. Krees had established in 1857. From that date Mr. Tibbetts was actively interested in the mercantile development of Preston. He conducted two different stores here, and also owned stores in Lanesboro and Fountain. In time he acquired extensive real estate interests, but never devoted much of his time to agricultural pursuits. In the fall of 1879 he purchased the Stanwix Hotel, erected in the early days by John Kaercher. Mr. Tibbetts conducted this hotel until his death, February 27, 1904. While in the hotel business he erected a building on the present site of the village hall and library which was used as an opera house, public hall and skating rink, and was afterward sold to the village. He also erected other buildings in the village, was interested in a number of business ventures and was justice of the peace for several years. His death removed one of Fillmore county's most substantial figures. The subject of this sketch was married February 26, 1862, to Mary E. Vrooman, born in Toledo, O., April 27, 1844, daughter of R. B. Vrooman, who brought his family to Preston in 1861. Mrs. Tibbetts is a capable business woman, and was an able helpmate of her husband in all his undertakings. She now looks after the interests of the estate in a capable and able manner. She has a large home in which she delights in dispensing hospitality to the large circle of friends who admire her for her many sterling qualities of mind and character. She has recently entirely remodeled and refurnished the hotel which bears her husband's name, and it is now one of the finest hotels in this part of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Tibbetts had three children: Owen D., Mary and Cushman D. Owen D. was born January 19, 1863. He married Fannie Ferren and resides in Sioux City, Iowa. He has four children: James O., Chloe M., Henry B. and Donald O. Mary was born April 18, 1866, and married G. D. Moore, a merchant of Preston. Cushman D. was born April 6, 1873.

**R. B. Vrooman** was one of the early merchants of Preston. He came here with his family in 1861, from Ohio, and with a partner conducted a general store under the firm name of Vrooman & Stout. After his health failed he went to Michigan, where he died June 14, 1863. By his wife, whose maiden name was Laura Chaplin, he had four children. George Henry died August 5, 1895. Charles E., a prominent attorney, occupied a position in the treasury department in Washington, D. C., for twenty years. John M. is a newspaper man at Lewiston, Mont. Mary E. is the widow of James P. Tibbetts, of Preston, Minn.

Laurence O'Brien, who since 1898 has acceptably filled the position of post-master of Preston, is one of the most popular residents of that village. He was born in Freeport, Ill., on October 17, 1861, son of Rickard and Mary (Mooney) O'Brien. The subject of this biography went to the district school which was situated near the home farm, and as he grew older and completed the common school course, went to Watertown, Wis., where he entered college. Some time later he completed a business course in the La Crosse Business College, after which he made a study of the various kinds of grains and perfected himself for the buying and selling of this product. For many years he was engaged in this occupation, and his square business methods and good judgment, won the confidence of all associated with him. His appointment as post-master met with the approval of his fellow townsmen, and in this position he has given general satisfaction and worked for the interests of the people. He married Nellie Mahoney and to them three children have been born, Kathleen, Margaret, and George.

Rickard O'Brien was born in Ireland August 9, 1820. His father died when he was sixteen years old, and being the eldest of ten children, the chief support of the family devolved upon him. They lived on the farm until 1848, when they were ejected from their home by a sheriff and his posse for a "non title" after the rent had been paid. When the house was attacked Mr. O'Brien and one sister were the only occupants. He asked of the land agent on the outside a consideration of twenty pounds for improvements made on the farm while they occupied it. This request was at first refused, but as the inmates remained firm, the promise was given but broken after the agent had gained possession. Disgusted with such laws they sailed the same year for America. Their mother died on the voyage and the family located in Freeport, Ill. The subject of our sketch was married to Mary Mooney in 1854. During the late war he was tax collector for a time in a part of Stephenson county, Illinois. In September, 1871, he rented his farm and came to Minnesota, and three years later purchased a farm in Amherst township. He occupied several town offices and attained a position of honor and respect in the community.

Rev. David L. Kiehle, for many years pastor of the Presbyterian church at Preston, and county superintendent of schools, made a deep impress on the life of Fillmore county, and will always be remembered here. Of his work, "Who Is Who in America," says: Prof. pedagogy, Univ. of Minn. 1893-1902;

born Dansville, N. Y., Feb. 7, 1837, grad. State Normal School, Albany, N. Y., 1856; Hamilton College, 1861 (A. M., 1864; LL. D., 1887. same); grad. Union Theol. Sem., New York, 1865; ordained to Presby'n ministry; m. Dansville, N. Y., July 16, 1863, Mary Gilman. Pastor Preston, Minn., 1865-1875; County Supt. Schools, Fillmore county, Minn., 1869-1875; Dir. State Normal Schools, 1869-1875; Pres. State Normal School, St. Cloud, Minn., 1875-1881; State Supt. Public Instruction, of Minn., 1881-1893; Pres. national dept. superintendence, Nat. educational association, 1895. Address, Portland, Oregon.

**John Kaercher**, the founder of Preston, was a man of enterprise, with originality. In addition to the two mills, he built the Stanwix House, which was a noted hotel for more than twenty years. He also built a comfortable brick residence in the lower part of the village. He bought a farm east of the village and elected a brick residence. After a few years he sold his mill, but out of active business he was afflicted with a spirit of unrest, and, after a time, bought back his mill property, and taking into partnership V. M. Baker, they prosecuted the business for a number of years, but finally sold to the Conkey brothers, who still own and operate the mill.

Mr. Kaercher then resolved to permanently retire from the milling business, but seeing a place for the expression of his energies, and remembering the generous profits of flour manufacture, he leased the Nonpareil Mill, in Chatfield, of S. T. Dickson. This was put in good repair and he made a complete success in operating it. He afterwards bought the Troy mill, in Winona county, and at one time had four mills at different points. Soon after the war there was wild speculation in wheat, it went up to \$2.75, and an immense quantity of wheat was purchased at these prices, to keep the mills in operation, when suddenly the "corner" collapsed and only found a resting place at 70 cents. Mr. Kaercher, it is said, lost \$70,000 and had \$30,000, as a debt, hanging over him. He had before had serious reverses, but this was the most serious. For several years he was out of business, except as to his farm below the village, but he finally succeeded in trading his farm for a little mill at Clear Grit with one run of stones. He increased the power and added five run of stones. He made the best grades of flour, and in a word, retrieved his fallen fortunes, wiping out the last dollar of his indebtedness. Again he enlarged the mill to more than double its former capacity, but a debt was contracted, and various circumstances conspired to make an unprofitable business, and on June 23, 1881, he removed to the Dakotas, where he died.

**George H. Rappe**, a resident of village of Preston, was born in Germany, February 27, 1845, son of George and Katherine (Bakey) Rappe. He came to America with his parents in 1851, and the family settled in Lawrenceburg, Ind., where the father was employed in a mill for three years, after which they moved to Muscatine, Ia. In this city they remained three years and then came to Minnesota, and after a two weeks' stop over in Preston, went to Carrolton, arriving there May 20, 1857. George H., the subject of this sketch, with his brother, William, purchased forty acres of land in section thirty-two, and for this farm they paid the government \$100. Mr. Rappe and his brother carried on farming operations on this land for sixteen years, and then divided the property, which they had acquired. After the division of the farm, Mr. Rappe moved into the brick residence which had been erected by John Kaercher, and here he made his home until 1909, when he moved into Preston. Mr. Rappe married Katherine Poff, daughter of Michael and Margaret Poff, and they are the parents of Annie, the wife of Fred Weyrauch; Mary, now Mrs. L. P. Weller; George, married Annie Marquedt; Emma is the wife of William J. Merrell; Rosena married William Bakey; Mable is Mrs. Sever Aekholm; William, Sarah and Edward are deceased. George, Jr., is living on the home farm, which comprises 422 acres of land, of which 182½ belongs to him and the remainder is worked by Sever Aekholm. Mr. Rappe enlisted January 14, 1863, in Company F, First Regiment, Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and was mustered out at Fort Snelling, December 2, 1863, having served through the Indian campaign. He is now sergeant of the guards, and a past commander of Underwood Post, G. A. R. Mr. Rappe is well known in the state. He has served on the grand and petit juries at St. Paul, as grand juror at Fergus Falls, Minn., and on the petit jury at Duluth.

**Miss Kate Little**, who has been actively engaged in W. C. T. U. work in the village of Preston for some time, takes a very deep interest in this order, and at the present time has charge of the village rest room. She is a daughter of Duncan McArthur and Elizabeth Pedley (Hall) Little, the former of whom was born and reared in Newark, O., and the latter a native of Boston, Mass. To Mr. and Mrs. Little four children were born, of whom one daughter, Kate, grew to maturity. Mr. Little came to Minnesota in 1854 and pre-empted a claim in section three, northwest corner of the township of Preston. He then went to Illinois, and for two years was employed at farm work, after which he returned to his claim and broke the land and cultivated it and established his home. Mrs. Little died in 1850, in Illinois, and



GEORGE H. RAPPE AND FAMILY

was survived by her life's partner until January 19, 1890, when he was summoned by the Grim Reaper. Kate, the daughter, has since made her home in Preston. She is well versed in the early history of the town and has frequently contributed to the papers articles of great interest to her town's people. Her story of pioneer days appears in this history.

George E. Weatherill, auditor of Fillmore county, has been a resident of Preston ten years, and during that time has acquired an enviable knowledge of the court house records. Shortly after his arrival here he accepted the position of deputy auditor, which he held for nearly two years, after which he had charge of A. W. Thompson's abstract business for a period of five years. In 1907 the board of county commissioners appointed him auditor and fifteen months later he was elected to the office. Mr. Weatherill was born in Oneida county, New York, June 25, 1865, son of William and Mary (Seelye) Weatherill, of whom the former was a native of Yorkshire, England, and the latter of New York. The family came to Minnesota in 1876, and the father engaged in general farming for a number of years. George, the subject of this sketch, acquired his schooling in Lenora, Minn., and later in Decorah, Ia. After completing his education, he taught school in Canton and Newburg townships and was most successful in this work, giving satisfaction to the residents of the districts in which he was employed. He moved to Preston about 1901, where he is a prominent citizen. Emma Johnson, a daughter of Peter and Sarah Johnson, natives of Norway, became his wife, and they have one son, Cedric S., born in August, 1891, at present a student in the College of Engineering at the State University. Mr. Weatherill is a member of Preston Lodge, No. 12, I. O. O. F., and has passed through all the chairs of that order. He also belongs to Preston Camp, No. 276, M. W. A.; Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. and A. M., and Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M.

Alfred G. Olson, a well-known business man of Preston, is a native of this county, born in Newburg May 23, 1871, son of Gilbert and Anna Olson, who came to the United States from Norway in 1864 and located first at Amhurst, where they resided for one year, and then moved to Newburg. The father was a blacksmith by trade, and followed this occupation for seven years in Newburg. He then purchased a farm, which he disposed of two years later and went to Red Wing, where he remained one year as a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church of that place. Then he returned to Newburg and resumed his old business. Three years after this he bought back the farm,

which he had previously owned and sold, and again carried on general farming, also serving as local preacher. In 1900 he retired and moved to Mabel, where he spent three years, and later came to Preston. There he lived a short time, after which he went back to the town of Mabel, where he died November 19, 1911. To Gilbert Olson and wife five children were born, of whom but one, Alfred G., the subject of this sketch, is now living. Albert G. attended school in district 5, Newburg, until he was fourteen years old and then secured employment in a creamery near his home. A year later he went with this organization to Canton, where he remained two years. He came to Preston in 1893 and purchased an interest in the village creamery, which he operated for about sixteen years, and later sold. During the period of his association with the Preston Creamery, he engaged in the ice cream, coal and fuel business, which he is successfully conducting at present. In addition to this enterprise, he manufactures all kinds of soft drinks. He entered into partnership with E. I. Hartson in 1903, but four years later this partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Olson is now the sole owner and proprietor of the concern. He married Bertha Golberg in December, 1893, and she has borne him five children: Inez, Amy, Goldie, Arthur and Golberg. Mr. Olson upholds the tenets of the Republican party, and attends the Norwegian Lutheran church. He is a member and past master of the Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M.. He also belongs to the Malta Commandery, in which he holds the office of senior warden, and is first vailsman of the chapter. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and is prominent as a public spirited citizen, whose success and popularity are due to good business principles and progressive ideas.

**Eugene V. Farrington**, who for many years was one of the most honored and substantial figures in the life of Fillmore county, will long be remembered for his worth as a man, his usefulness as a citizen and his services as an official. The high standard which he set for his own conduct, the tolerance with which he regarded the failings of others, his fair mindedness, his acute judgment, his clear analytical mind, and his charming social qualities were characteristics which marked him among his fellow men and won for him the respect, admiration and confidence of all with whom he came in contact whether in business, official or social intercourse. Born on a farm in Herkimer county, New York, December 1, 1836, Mr. Farrington came West with his parents, Cephas and Susan (Sabin) Farrington, when he was twenty years of age. The family located in Baraboo, Wis., and there remained two years, after which they came to Minnesota and located in Jordan township, this county, taking up



a claim on section twenty-six, on which the parents spent the remainder of their days. E. V., who had received a good education at the White Plains Academy, New York, followed the fortunes of the family in New York and Wisconsin, and upon arriving in this county, took a farm near his father's, which he broke and improved, and where he carried on agricultural operations for some years. At once upon his arrival he began to take an interest in public affairs, and at various times was elected to different local offices of trust and honor. In 1875 and again in 1879 he sat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, and in this capacity advocated a number of wise and progressive laws. In 1881 he was elected to the office of judge of probate of Fillmore county. It was in this capacity that he indelibly impressed his personality on the life and history of the community. Taking office January 1, 1882, he served continuously until the spring of 1907, when, having been elected for another term the previous fall, he resigned on account of failing health. In the meantime he had allied himself with a number of societies. Having been an orderly sergeant in Company I, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, he early became identified with Underwood Post, No. 122, G. A. R., and served as its commander for eighteen years. He also belonged to Preston lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., and to Preston Camp, No. 276, M. W. A. Being of sincere and deep religious convictions, he joined the Methodist Episcopal church at an early age, and became a staunch supporter of that body at Preston, being superintendent of the Sunday school for many years. In 1907 ill health caused his retirement from all active life, and the sad end came July 13 of that year. In the death of Mr. Farrington, the village of Preston and the county of Fillmore suffered a severe loss, and his memory will ever be revered by his family and by the host of friends and acquaintances, whose interests he had at heart, and to whom he was constantly showing acts of the kindest consideration. Mrs. Farrington is now living in Preston in a beautiful home on the Ridge, where she is spending her declining years, surrounded by the love and tenderness which her gracious character so amply merits. The subject of this sketch was married December 28, 1865, to Alice E. Sheldon, daughter of James and Sarah (Walradt) Sheldon. To this union were born four children: George Warren died at four years of age. Charles Herbert died at eighteen months. Sabin E. lives in Louisville, Ky. Grace M. is the wife of Robert D. Sprague, cashier of the Sprague State Bank of Caledonia, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Sprague have had two sons: Farrington David died at fourteen months. Robert Eugene, the light of the household, was born September 7, 1904.

Many pathetic scenes accompanied the declining months of

Judge Farrington's life, when he who had been so active and strong, and whose personality had led his fellow men, was compelled, in feebleness, to await the Great Conqueror. Friends, comrades and associates vied with each other in their attentions and in acts of love and esteem. A scene which will never be forgotten so long as the history of Preston endures was that of the Memorial Sunday morning before Decoration Day, 1907, when, for the first time in eighteen years, Commander Farrington did not attend worship at the head of the tattered remnant of what was once a sturdy body of Preston veterans. After listening to the sermon, the aged veterans went to the Farrington home, fired a salute to the commander, and waited for his venerable figure to appear in answer to their summons. But the body and mind that once had commanded were too feeble even to reach the veranda of the house, and the comrades, one by one, passed into the room where lay their commander, and there each dropped a flower. Some were crippled, many were feeble, few indeed but what bore the marks of old age and failing health, but all united in this tribute of love, knowing that he soon was to pass from them, but knowing too, that it would not be many years before the last veteran of that glorious Grand Army should lay down the body which suffered for his country's call, while the spirit which loved the cause of righteousness should go winging to join the Army gathered in that after life, where the Master himself shall command them and speak his "Well done."

**John P. McNeff**, who for many years was engaged in carpentry work in Preston, passed away in that village in 1903. He first saw the light of day in Canada July 10, 1860, and here spent his youthful days and acquired his education. In 1881 he came to the States and secured employment in the city of Chicago, where he remained for one year, after which he went to Athol, S. D. Here he homesteaded some land and carried on general farming. He married Sarah G. O'Conner, a daughter of Michael and Bridget (Munhall) O'Conner, in 1885 and their home has been blessed with the birth of five children: Michael A., living in Aberdeen, S. D.; Mary and Ellen, now deceased, and John J. and Francis A., who care for the home farm. Marie is an adopted daughter. Mr. McNeff eventually left South Dakota, and with his wife and family went to Chicago, where for nine years he was employed in railway service. After resigning from this position he came to Preston, took up the work of a carpenter and continued in this occupation until the time of his death. He was a member of the Yeomen Lodge and also of the M. W. A. His widow purchased a farm of eighty acres of land in section

seven, Preston township, and here makes her home. She was born in Bristol May 8, 1861, and her parents are among the early pioneers of that township.

**Thomas Trulson Ask**, one of the early pioneers of this county, is a native of Christiania, Norway, born March 4, 1827. When twenty-four years of age he came to America and settled in Rock county, Wisconsin, where for two years he followed his trade as blacksmith, after which he moved to Iowa, where he remained one season; then to Menominee, Wis., where he was employed as blacksmith in a saw mill for a period of thirteen months. He came to Minnesota in 1855 and took a claim in Amherst township, where he made his home for two years, after which he moved to section one, Preston township. On the latter location Mr. Ask erected a log cabin, in which he and his family lived for seven years. His present substantial and comfortable home was erected in 1864. As the years have passed the subject of this biography has witnessed many changes in the community which he chose as his home, and he relates many intensely interesting anecdotes of the pioneer days and of the hard times which he encountered when first a resident of the county. His farm was wild land when he first homesteaded it and he broke and cultivated it and carried on general farming for many years, now owning 238 acres. Mr. Ask married Carrie Holt, who has borne him fourteen children, six of whom are now living; Martin, John, Torval, now operating the home farm; Tillie, the wife of Anton Dammen; Lizzie E., living at home, and Mary, the wife of H. A. Ness. The deceased children are: Carrie, Anton, Emma, Torval, Ole, Carl, Gilbert and one not named. Mrs. Ask died January 16, 1907. The family faith is that of the Elstad United Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Jacob Olstad**, now deceased, was a respected and well thought of citizen of Preston township for many years. He was a son of Norwegian parents and was born in Carrolton township, where he grew to manhood, attended school and fitted himself for the useful and energetic life of a farmer. In 1885 he married Betsy Lawston, whose father had come to America from Norway with his wife and daughter, Sarah, and settled in Fillmore county. They later came to Preston and located in section nine, where the husband and father built a log house, in which Betsy, their daughter was born. After her marriage to Mr. Olstad, this humble dwelling was replaced by a fine modern house and here she and her husband reared their family of six children, Henry, Carl, Josephine, Alfred, Nettie and Lydia. This happy home was saddened January 14, 1908, by the death of Jacob Olstad,

whose life of industry and self sacrifice placed him in the high esteem of the residents of the township. Now the farm is cared for and cultivated by the sons, who, under the wise supervision of Mrs. Olstad, are becoming successful farmers, and the 360 acres which comprise the farm are made to yield abundantly.

**B. Peterson**, one of the successful farmers of Preston township, was born in Norway, October 6, 1842. In 1869 he, in company with his brother and sisters, left the home of their youth and embarked for America, and with them came west and settled in Lanesboro, this county, where the subject of this sketch was employed at farming for one year. He also worked on the railroad for a similar length of time, after which he bought a farm in section thirty-one, Preston township, where he built a good house and the necessary buildings. This farm now comprises 169 acres of land, ninety of which are in Carimona township. Mr. Peterson was united in the bonds of matrimony with Clara Krees, whose mother, Mrs. Carrie Krees, is still living at the advanced age of ninety-three years. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson six children have been born to bless their home. John is living in Grand Forks, Henry, Fred and Clarence are at home with their parents. Emma is the wife of Louis Durst and they have five children. Mr. Peterson has occupied the office of school director in district 129, and is one of the well known and respected farmers in the township.

**W. K. Read**, a venerable and highly esteemed citizen of Preston, was born in England June 30, 1836. When he was twenty-one years of age he came to America, and for about seven years after his arrival in this country lived in Harrisburg, Pa., where he followed his trade of wheelwright and wagonmaker. He left Harrisburg and went to Janesville, Wis., where he was employed for a year and a half, after which he moved to Winona, in 1859, and was there engaged in business for a period of three years. He came to Fillmore county in 1862, locating in Carimona, where he lived for twenty-one years in section four and carried on his trade. During his residence in Carimona Mr. Read occupied many of the public offices of that township, being town clerk, justice of the peace, postmaster and school clerk, and holding other positions of minor importance. In 1883 he moved into the village of Preston and built a wagon shop. He lives practically a retired life. He enlisted in the Second Minnesota Battery in 1864, and was taken sick and discharged for disability at Fort Snelling after four months' service. He married Mary Ann Latham, of Columbus, O., and to them have been born: Laura, living at home. Nellie, now Mrs. G. M. Hopp, a talented

poetess. Edward B. and Wilmot A. engaged in the grocery business in Preston. Mr. Read has been a member of the I. O. O. F. for over forty-five years, and a member of the Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., since 1864, and he has been honored by being elected to the office of grand patriarch of Minnesota. He is a member of the Underwood Post, No. 122, G. A. R., and in addition to his fraternal obligations, is justice of the peace, and has served in this capacity for the past fifteen years. The fact that he has held so many of the prominent offices in the town in which he has made his home demonstrates most forcibly the fact that he is possessed of executive ability combined with good common sense. His father kept a hotel in Preston in 1857 and also conducted a wagon shop, as many of the early settlers will recall.

**Theobald Riehl**, a native of Canada, was born May 4, 1864, son of John and Katherine (Jacobs) Riehl, natives of Germany. He was educated in his native country, there reached his majority and in 1885 came to Preston, where he was employed by Michael Anstett. When he became twenty-five years old, he purchased a farm in section seven, which he has well improved and cultivated, and where he engaged in general and dairy farming. He also devotes much time and attention to stock raising and growing grain, and his farm, which comprises 480 acres of land, is one of the most productive in the community. Mr. Riehl also owns a farm of 215 acres, located in Carimona township, which he rents. He has a large and substantial dwelling house and has erected suitable out buildings for the shelter of his stock and modern farming machinery, with which his farm is well equipped. Katherine Reuber became his wife and this marriage has resulted in the birth of five children, Lydia, Clara, Edward, Frank and Floyd. Clara is the wife of Albert Krause, and they are the parents of one child, Aurelia. In the public welfare of the township Mr. Riehl is actively interested, though he has not sought public office, and his honesty and integrity are respected by all who know him.

**George Renner**, a successful business man residing in Preston, was born in Pike county, Ohio, November 8, 1852. His parents, John G. and Mary (Glob) Renner, were natives of Germany, who came to the United States and located in Ohio in 1884, where the father was engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred in April, 1867. A year later the mother moved to Wisconsin and located in La Crosse, where she made her home until 1877, when she went to Plattsmouth, Neb., and here in January, 1893, she passed away. They were the parents of ten children,

of whom Louis, J. G., Mary, Susan, Maggie and Kate are deceased; Fred Y. resides in Missouri, Jacob makes his home in La Crosse, Andrew lives in South Dakota and George, the subject of this sketch, is a resident of Preston. George Renner was educated in Pike county, Ohio, and, when sixteen years old, he went to Wisconsin and learned the blacksmith trade in La Crosse. Ten years later he came to Preston, where he entered into partnership with Louis Kramer and carried on a general blacksmithing business. He sold out his interest in this business in 1880 and traveled for the Deering Twine Binder Company, remaining in the employ of this company for a period of four years, after which he erected a blacksmith shop in the city of Preston and successfully carried on that business until 1902, when he sold his shop to C. I. Peterson, and for the following three years was engaged in buying and selling farm implements. He was appointed by the late Governor John A. Johnson as State Boiler Inspector, and held this position for four years. He then entered the wool and produce business, which he is conducting at the present. He married Christina Young September 12, 1871, and they have had four children born to them; Angelina, now deceased, married Herbert M. Stroud; Anna L. is the wife of Leonard Schaller, of Dotson, Mont.; Della married Joseph J. Hagen, of Glasgow, Mont.; Edward F. is living at Medina, N. D. Mr. Renner is a prominent lodge member in Preston, having held all the highest offices in the I. O. O. F. at different periods, and he is now at the head of the M. W. A. For thirteen years he was a member of the village council, and his good judgment and integrity have won the respect of his fellow townsmen. Politically he is a member of the Democratic party, and his religious faith is founded in the teachings of the Presbyterian church.

Nels A. Raymer, the leading merchant tailor of Preston, was born at Stora Harri, Sweden, May 23, 1865, son of A. N. and Ellen (Paulson) Raymer. His father was engaged in the tailoring business in Stora Harri, owning one of the largest and best establishments of its kind in that place. Nels A., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the Stora Harri schools and grew to manhood in the land of his birth, after which he learned the tailor trade at Stockholm, where he remained for five years. When he had attained his majority he left the shores of his native land and sailed for America, arriving in this country in 1886, and coming to Minneapolis, where for about six years he was employed at the trade learned from his father. Leaving Minneapolis he went to Duluth, and from that city to St. Paul, and later to South Dakota, finally returning to Minnesota in 1896 and locating in Preston. Here he has built up a large and prosperous busi-

ness, and is recognized as one of the enterprising residents of the city. He was married March 29, 1893, to Bertha Marquardt, of Preston, who is of German birth, having been brought to America by her parents when a babe of nine months. Mr. and Mrs. Raymer own a very pleasant and comfortable residence in Preston, and attend divine worship at the Lutheran church. Mr. Raymer is an independent voter and in every respect is a progressive citizen.

**Matthew Simonson** is one of the industrious farmers of Preston township and has done his share toward the development and improvement of this part of the county. He was born in Norway November 28, 1862, son of Ole and Johanna (Sveum) Simonson, and came to America with his parents in 1870 when only eight years old. The family settled in Preston township in section 17, and here the father bought 40 acres with stone house thereon, where they made their home for about four years, after which they moved to section 21. Matthew, the subject of this biography, received his education in the little log school house situated by the creek near his home, and while not busy with his studies helped with the farm work. He now owns a valuable farm of 179 acres, and this land is all in a tillable condition and one of the most productive pieces of property in the community. He has a substantial and commodious dwelling house, good barns and the necessary out buildings, and devotes particular attention to raising pure bred Shorthorn cattle. Mr. Simonson was united in matrimony with Carrie Munson and to them three children were born, Tillie and Joseph now living and Marion deceased. In the various offices of his township Mr. Simonson has ever been an active worker, having been chairman of the board of supervisors and a member of the board for a period of eleven years. He is also a member of the school board, and in all offices to which he has been elected to serve has given general satisfaction. He has five brothers and one sister now living; Simon, residing with the father in Preston; Knute and Bent living at Amherst; Andrew a resident of Preston; Louis of Canada; Lena, wife of Gilbert Soland of Canada. The family worship at the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Simonson is a stockholder in the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank of Preston. He and his family are all charter members of the Union Prairie Temperance Society, which was organized in 1896.

**The North Star Stock Farm.** This farm, which is owned by John H. and Major T. Duxbury, was preempted in 1855 by Thomas Duxbury, father of the present owners. It consists of 292 acres of fertile land, and is located a short distance from

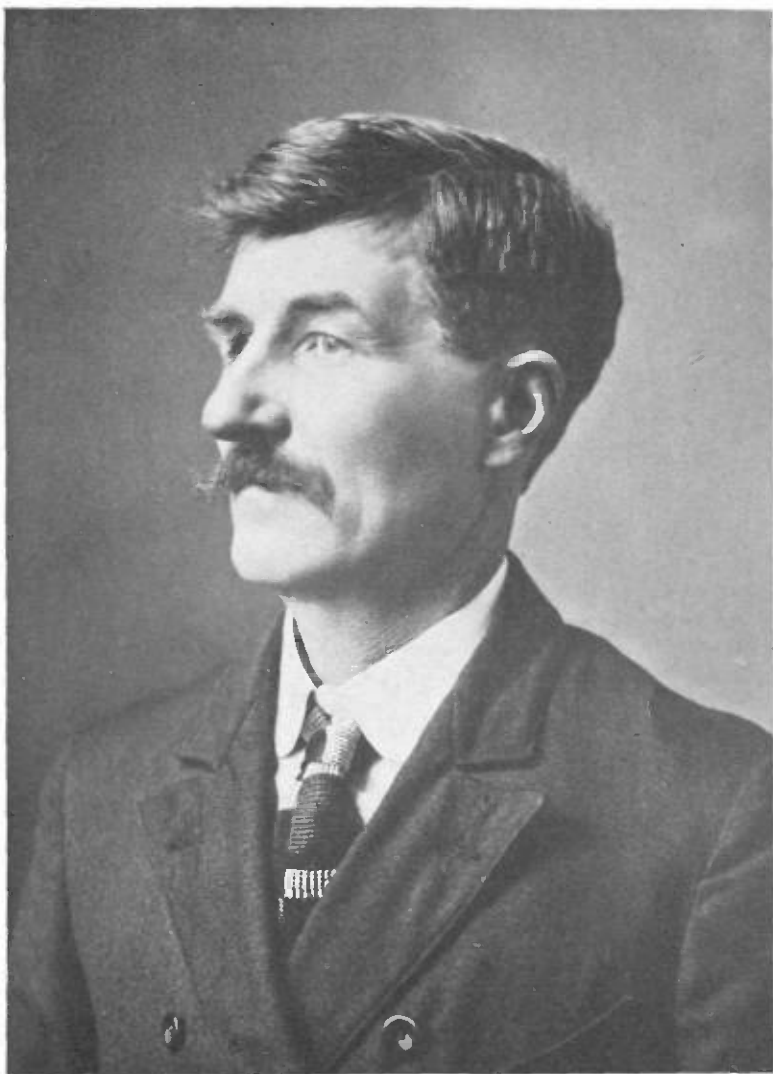
the village of Hutton. With its well improved land and well kept buildings, the place is considered a model farm in every respect, and its stock has received wide recognition. On the farm are bred Clydesdale horses of much quality and substance, large well-wooled Shropshire sheep, Poland China swine that give the most in value for the least expenditure, and in fact, high class stock of various descriptions. At various times, the North Star Farm exhibits of stock have won many prizes in county fairs held in Fillmore county, and for the past two years, the farm has received recognition at the Minnesota state fair, winning three red ribbons in 1910 and two red and two blue ribbons in 1911.

**Thomas Duxbury**, a pioneer resident of Fillmore county, was born in England, and in 1847 came to America from Manchester, locating for a while in Salem, Massachusetts. Subsequently he started west, reaching Preston township, this county in 1855. Here he preempted a claim, broke the land, erected buildings, became a substantial citizen, and farmed until his death April 26, 1899. His wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Mills, died February 6, 1895. They had three children, John H. and Major T., proprietors of the North Star Stock Farm at Hutton, Minnesota, and Mary A., who was born December 11, 1858, and now keeps house for her brothers.

**John H. Duxbury**, merchant at Hutton, and co-partner in the firm of J. H. Duxbury & Brother, proprietors of the North Star Stock Farm, is of English descent and parentage, born in Preston township, November 23, 1860, son of Thomas and Hannah (Mills) Duxbury, the pioneers. He was reared on the home farm, attended the school of district 47, and assisted his father in agricultural work. In 1894 he opened a general store in Hutton which he still conducts. The farm is a short distance from the store, and here he makes his home with his brother and sister. He is a progressive man and an intelligent business man and breeder, a thorough believer in the successful future of the county in which he was born and in which he has always made his home.

**Major T. Duxbury**, co-partner in the firm of J. H. Duxbury & Brother, stock breeders and proprietors of the North Star Farm, near Hutton, is a native born son of this county, having first seen the light of day on the farm where he still resides, January 12, 1864. He was reared on the home farm, gradually took up work assisting his father and brother, and finally when the father died took up the management of the farm in com-





J. H. DUXBURY

pany with his brother. He is a keen judge of stock, and is regarded as one of the intelligent and successful breeders of Minnesota.

**Edward Duxbury**, now deceased, for many years a respected citizen of Preston township, was born in England, and there married Nancy Garside. He and his wife left England December 2, 1847, and came to Salem, Massachusetts, where they worked in the cotton mills. In 1851 they came west and located on a farm in Porter, Rock county, Wisconsin, where they farmed until 1866 when they came to Preston township and spent the remainder of their days, Nancy Garside Duxbury passing away May 22, 1902, at the age of seventy-nine years and her husband Edward Duxbury February 15, 1905. Their children were James G., John E., William, born January 13, 1854 (deceased), Mary J., born October, 1855, Thomas, Benjamin and Anna, born February 13, 1863.

**James G. Duxbury**, a well-known resident of Preston township, was born in Salem, Massachusetts, September 21, 1850, and came to Fillmore county with his parents, Edward and Nancy (Garside) Duxbury, in 1866. He has devoted his life to farming, and with his brother John E. owns 120 acres in Preston township, on which they conduct modern farming in a successful manner. The subject of this sketch married Mary E. Brady, a native of Maryland, a daughter of John and Sarah Ann (Shirver) Brady, and they have six children: Elsie is the wife of Richard Hughes; Garfield lives at home; Maude is the wife of Henry Thompson; Claudine, Bessie and Ruth are at home.

**John E. Duxbury**, a successful farmer of Preston township, was born in Porter, Rock county, Wisconsin, March 8, 1852, son of Edward and Nancy (Garside) Duxbury. He came to Preston township with his parents in 1866, and was reared on the home farm, attending school in district 47. He is a bachelor, and he and his brother James G. own and operate their farm together. The place consists of 120 acres, all under cultivation, with a comfortable dwelling thereon, erected in 1875. The outbuildings for grain and cattle are modern and up-to-date. Mr. Duxbury is of a sociable disposition and has allied himself with Preston Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F., of Preston village.

**Thomas and Benjamin Duxbury**, successful farmers and prominent citizens of Preston township, have been residents here for some two score and five years, and have always stood for everything that is best in the growth of the county. They were born

in Rock county, Wisconsin, the former March 29, 1858, and the latter March 16, 1861, sons of Edward and Nancy (Garside) Duxbury, natives of England. The brothers acquired their education in the district school near their home, known as "Old Yale," of which institution Thomas Duxbury has written a most interesting history. The brothers now care for and cultivate the old home farm, which is well improved and modern. They made a specialty of Holstein cattle and Percheron horses. These estimable gentlemen are recognized as industrious and progressive citizens, vitally interested in all movements tending toward the development and improvement of the county in which they reside.

Charles F. Ginder, proprietor of the modern and remodeled Tibbets House at Preston, was born in Preston township, son of William and Mary (Diebold) Ginder, the pioneers. He received his education in the graded schools and in the Preston high school, remaining at home until twenty years of age. Then he went west and took a claim in Lac qui Parle county, this state, remaining there for four years. Since then he has spent his life as a hotel proprietor and traveling salesman. He was employed in the Minnesota and Dakota routes by the McCormick Harvester Company, four years; by the Cudahy Packing Company, four years; and by the Clinton Falls Nursery Company, three years. He also managed several hotels, largely in South Dakota. In 1911 he returned to the place of his birth, and assumed the management of the hostelry which he now conducts. Being of a sociable nature he has joined several organizations, and is affiliated with Sunset Lodge No. 109, A. F. & A. M., Montevideo Lodge, No. 75, I. O. O. F. and Owatonna Council, No. 85, U. C. T. Mr. Ginder was married in 1882 to Carrie Riesland who died in 1886. In July 1889 he married Jennie Roberts who died in 1894. In 1896 he married Sarah Roberts, a sister of his deceased wife, and this union has been blessed with one child, Ruth Roberts Ginder. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William Ginder, one of the earliest pioneers of Fillmore county, and for many years one of the honored and respected figures of his community, was born in Germany, in 1829. In 1832, while he was still an infant, his parents joined a colony of German emigrants and sailed for Canada. On the ocean, the father died. The family, thus bereaved, arrived in Toronto, Canada, after a long and stormy voyage. They first went to Collinwood, and thence to a location forty miles from all habitations, where they lived several years, experiencing all the hard-

ships and rigors incident to pioneer life in Canada at that period. In 1835, when William was six years old, his mother was married, and soon after the family moved to Stratford, where William remained until reaching his majority. Then he started out for himself, but remained in Canada until 1855 when he came to the States, and took land in Section 5, Preston township, this county. He broke and improved the land, and brought the farm to a high stage of cultivation, devoting his time to agricultural pursuits until his death, in June, 1887. He was married in 1858, to Mary Diebold, who is still living in Preston, and this union was blessed with six children: Ellen, wife of David Post, of Big Stone City, South Dakota; Charles, F., proprietor of the Tibbetts House; Rebecca, deceased; Hanna, now Mrs. Charles Meyer, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Alfred, who was killed at Ladysmith, Wisconsin; and Minnie, who is the wife of William F. Kuppenbacker, of Preston. Margaret Diebold, the mother of Mary (Diebold) Ginder is still living in Preston at the advanced age of ninety-four years.

Marvin T. Grattan, president of Fillmore County Agricultural Society, was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, July 26, 1848, and is descended from Colonial, Revolutionary and War of 1812 ancestry. He was reared in his parents' home and received a good public school education, after which he entered the government service. After acting for a while as clerk in the naval recruiting station, in Sterling, Whiteside county, Illinois, in 1863; he enlisted in 1864 in the regular naval service and saw service on the Great Western, the Clara Dolson and the Quichita. He was discharged on January 30, 1865, and entered into the implement business, in which he continued for seventeen years, having his headquarters at different times at Decorah, Preston and Austin. On March 30, 1870, he purchased a farm of 160 acres in section 36, in Fountain township, and here has made a specialty of breeding road horses. In fact, Mr. Grattan has been a horse fancier all his life, and while at Austin built the race track which is one of the prominent features of that city at the present time. Mr. Grattan's place is known as the Preston Stoeck Farm, and its animals receive a high rating with the American Trotting Registry Association, in which Mr. Grattan is a stockholder and member. The subject of this sketch is a Democrat in politics. He has never aspired to public office, but was one year elected unanimously to the position of mayor of Preston, the vote being taken during his absence and without his knowledge. He is a Royal Arch Mason. Marvin T. Grattan was married September 20, 1868, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, to Hattie White, who was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, March 18, 1853. This union

has been blessed with five children: Harry is a contractor and builder in Brooklyn, N. Y.; Jennie F. graduated from St. Mary's College, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and is now a teacher in the Bremer School in Minneapolis. Guyon operates the home farm. Richard H. and Eva are dead. Henry Guyon Grattan and Jane Trask Grattan his wife were natives of New York state, and came to Wisconsin in 1840, the latter passing away at Freeport, Illinois, in June, 1849. Henry G. Grattan was a pioneer newspaper man. He established the Gazette, of Janesville, Wisconsin; the Gazette of Sterling, Illinois; the Mirror of Mt. Carroll, Illinois; and the Bulletin, of Freeport, Illinois. About 1860 he moved to Waukon, Iowa, where he is buried. Amos Grattan, father of Henry G. Grattan and grandfather of Marvin T. Grattan, was a veteran of the War of 1812. At one time he owned the present site of Kenosha, Wisconsin. Luke Guyant, maternal grandfather of Henry C. Grattan, served two years with the Connecticut troops during the Revolutionary War. He received a pension in 1834 and died at Groton, Connecticut, December 30, 1837.

Charles E. Snyder, proprietor and manager of the Preston Nursery, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, April 29, 1861, son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Dean) Snyder, both natives of Perry county, Iowa, where they were both reared. Nicholas Snyder, the father, came west in 1854, located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, purchased 160 acres of government land at \$1.25 an acre, and then went back to Ohio, and was married, bringing his bride to his Winneshiek county farm in 1856. There he toiled and prospered, breaking and tilling his land, erecting his home and suitable outbuildings, and following general diversified farming for several years. He eventually disposed of that property and removed to Fillmore county, locating at Elliot, where he purchased what was known as the "Houston Farm." At a later date he disposed of that farm and moved to Canton, where he conducted a store for two years. He now lives in retirement in Canton village.

Charles E., the subject of this sketch, received his early schooling in Winneshiek county districts, attended St. Joseph College, at Dubuque, Iowa, and completed his education in the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa. Thus equipped with a good business training he started out in life for himself. He commenced as a traveling salesman for E. M. Sherman, of Charles City, Iowa. After one year with Mr. Sherman he engaged with the Cannon Falls Nursery, Cannon Falls, Minnesota, as a jobber on his own responsibility, in which capacity he was very successful, and in which vocation he continued until 1891. That

year he started the Preston Nursery. Later he purchased his present farm, which consists of about 100 acres located within the incorporate limits of the village of Preston. This land is extensively cultivated, and through the untiring efforts of Mr. Snyder, it has been made the best farm for its purpose in Fillmore county. Mr. Snyder's business has steadily increased, and at the present time he has in his employ several salesmen on the road besides a force of men to assist on the farm. A great deal of credit is due Mr. Snyder for the development of Fillmore county, in the abundance of fruit that is produced here, there being about one hundred orchards of over five hundred trees each, these all coming from the Preston Nursery. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society gives Mr. Snyder credit for making Fillmore county a fruit section. While Mr. Snyder's time and attention have always been turned toward horticulture and its development, he has not neglected to take part in whatever has been for the good and betterment of his village and community, having served two terms on the village council and being at present a member of the board of education. The subject of this sketch was married November 24, 1891, to Nellie J. Knickerbocker, of Owatonna, who was born in that city, January 13, 1872, daughter of William R. and Helen E. (Burgess) Knickerbocker. Her parents still reside at Owatonna. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder's home has been brightened by the birth of six children: Paul R., Leo C., Francis C., Cecil C., Virginia E. and Robert C. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church.

**Jeremiah Shook**, a pioneer resident of Preston and veteran of the Civil War, first saw the light of day in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on August 25, 1834. His parents were Jacob and Catherine (Miller) Shook, the former of whom, a native of Pennsylvania, came west with his brother John in 1856, reaching Preston, November 17. Jeremiah, the subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of his home state, and there grew to manhood. Hearing of the opportunities offered ambitious and energetic young men in the West, he decided to seek his fortune here and accordingly came to Minnesota in November, 1856, and settled in Preston, where for some time after his arrival he was employed at various kinds of labor. In 1870 he took charge of the flour mill in Preston, and for twenty-five years continued in this work. He was united in the bonds of matrimony with Mary M. Ream, a daughter of J. N. and Elizabeth Ream, and seven children have been born to them, of whom five are living, Sarah E., now Mrs. Charles Butler of Preston; Edward, residing in South Dakota; Elmer E., living at Savanuah, Illinois; William, a resident of Preston, conductor for the Chi-

cago, Milwaukee & St. Paul; Mildred, the wife of George Brightbill. Mr. Shook fought for the preservation of the Union, having enlisted in 1864, in Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and was honorably discharged in 1865. He is a member of Underwood Post G. A. R. in Preston and is respected by all with whom he has associated, either socially or in a business capacity. He now lives a retired life, enjoying the fruits of his well spent years.

**B. Skaugerud**, whose success in life is due to his resolute industry and perseverance, has been a resident of Preston for nearly thirty years. He was born in Norway September 14, 1860, a son of Thomas and Agnette (Blixseth) Boreson, and received his education in the schools of his native land. When he was sixteen years old he secured employment in a store as a clerk, and worked for his board and clothes. Two years later he enlisted in the standing army in Christiania, but on account of illness was honorably discharged after seven months' service. He then resumed his former work as a clerk, in which occupation he continued until the latter part of 1880, when he decided to cross the ocean to establish for himself a home and profitable occupation in the United States. For some time after his arrival in this country he was employed on a farm in Canton, Minn., after which he went to Spring Valley, and then came to Preston and secured a position clerking in Conkey Brothers' store. He was in the employ of this firm for a period of four years, after which he opened a grocery store and restaurant, which he conducted for two years. He sold out his stock and fixtures and then built the Park Hotel, on the corner of Main and Anthony streets, and for more than nineteen years was proprietor and manager of this hotel, in which capacity he was most successful and popular. In the spring of 1909 he sold out to William Smith, and the following year accepted a position with the Washington Woollen Mills as a traveling salesman. His territory covers northern Minnesota and Dakota, and in his new line of work he has given excellent satisfaction. In the spring of 1894 he took a five months' trip to his old home in Norway. The following year he again crossed the water and enjoyed a trip of fourteen months' duration before returning to Preston. Mr. Skaugerud was married May 17, 1888, to Julia Ellis, a daughter of John Ellis, of Harmony. He votes independently and attends the Lutheran church. He is a member of the Iowa State Traveling Men's Association, and is in every sense a progressive and public-spirited citizen. His beautiful home in Preston is one of the finest in the city. It is modern in every respect and contains a rare collection of curios, gathered by Mr. Skaugerud in his extensive travels

and purchased from curio dealers. Among the most valuable of his collections are some which were acquired by him when a child in his old home in Norway.

**Thomas Boreson** came to America from Norway, the land of his birth, in 1867. He was then a widower, having one son borne him by Agnette (Blixseth) Boreson, who died in June, 1861. Upon his arrival here he located in Wisconsin near La Crosse, where he married Sigri Odergarden, also of Norwegian birth. By this marriage two sons were born, Nels and Sigrud. For seven years they remained in Wisconsin, where Mr. Boreson followed the occupation of farming, at which he had engaged before leaving Norway. He returned to his native land in 1874 with his wife and remained there until 1881, when he came back to the United States and went to North Dakota, locating on a school section near Fingel. Here he broke the land, cleared it, erected a comfortable home and the necessary out buildings and is still successfully carrying on agricultural operations.

**J. T. Tollefson**, one of the well known and prosperous farmers who live in the township of Preston, was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, April 7, 1853, son of Andrew and Elsie Tollefson. The father emigrated from Norway to America in 1850 and spent three years in Wisconsin. In 1853 he set out for Minnesota and arrived in Preston August 8. Some time later he pre-empted land in sections 22 and 23, and built the first log house erected in the township. Three years later he moved this house to section 23, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying November 29, 1898, two years after the death of his estimable wife, who entered into rest April 29, 1896. J. T., the son, received his early education in the old log school house in district 46, which is still standing. Mr. Tollefson was united in the bonds of matrimony with Clara Grythe, daughter of Christian and Lisse Grythe, who was born in Norway in 1861 and came to America with her parents in 1869, locating in section 10, Preston, the following year. Mr. and Mrs. Tollefson are parents of Axel, Casper, Lawrence and Elsie O. The home farm, which Mr. Tollefson owns, comprises 120 acres, which are now worked by his sons, as ill health prevents his engaging in arduous labor. His present substantial house was built in 1908 and his property is well improved. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and they are liberal contributors toward the support of this organization.

**James N. Taylor**, a retired farmer and veterinary surgeon, residing in the city of Preston, was born in County Down, Ireland, July 8, 1837, son of James and Sarah (Sturgeon) Taylor,



and after coming to this country lived several years in New York state. In the spring of 1857 he came to Minnesota and settled in Preston, where he secured a farm of 160 acres of good fertile land and where for many years he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, also practicing his profession as a veterinary surgeon. Mr. Taylor was married December 28, 1865, to Margaret J. Price, a daughter of Allan E. and Jane (Baird) Price, of County Antrim, Ireland, who came to America and located in New York state, where they reared their family of five children; Katherine, Elizabeth, Margaret J., John, and Allan, now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor six children were born, of whom two are deceased. John P. is the editor of the "Reardon Progress," at Reardon, Lincoln county, Washington; Jennie is the wife of Warren E. Cummings, of Waukeke, this county; William J is residing in Rockford, Wash., and is the editor of the "Rockford Register"; Verna E. is a teacher and lives at home. Mr. Taylor attends the Presbyterian church, and in politics affiliates with the Republican party. He is one of Preston's esteemed citizens who has ever taken an active interest in the welfare and progress of the town and county in which he has for so many years made his home.

O. H. Titterud, a successful veterinary surgeon of Preston, is a native of this state, having been born at Ham Lake, Anoka county, on February 4, 1879. His parents, Halver H. and Carrie (Livgard) Titterud, came to the United States from Norway in 1866, and upon arriving in this country came directly west and settled in Anoka county. The father was engaged in farming and is still residing on the old homestead at Ham Lake, the mother having died March 18, 1906. They were the parents of nine children, of whom five are still living; Maxel, Berger and Henry, of Ham Lake; Anna, a teacher in Tacoma, Wash., and O. H., veterinarian. The subject of this biography acquired his early education in the district school at Ham Lake and later entered the Minneapolis Normal College. In 1903 he went to Toronto, Canada, where he took a course in the Veterinary College, and graduated two years later, after which he came to Chicago and entered the Chicago Veterinary College, completing his studies in this institution in 1906. He then returned to his old home at Ham Lake, where he began to practice the profession for which he had so well prepared himself. In 1908 he moved to the city of Preston and has here had a marked degree of success in his work. October 19, 1910, Clara A. Vordale, of Sun Prairie, Wis., became his wife. Mr. Titterud is a Republican of the progressive type, and for some time served on the school



O. H. TITTERUD

board at Ham Lake. He attends the Lutheran church and is a member of the Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. and A. M.

**William B. Hutchison**, distinguished veteran of the Civil War and of the Indian campaign, was born in Logan county, Illinois, February 19, 1842, son of William and Mary Jane (Hendrickson) Hutchison. The father died when William B. was but six years of age, and three years later the mother married James Springsteel. In May, 1854, the family moved to this county, settling in Bristol, where they were among the earliest pioneers. The subject of this sketch attended school in Granger and lived on the home farm until 1862, when he enlisted in Company B, Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was mustered in at Ft. Snelling in February, 1862, and when it was ordered south in March, 1862, three companies, including Company B, in which Mr. Hutchison had enlisted, were left to garrison frontier posts in Minnesota. On August 18, 1862, Company B, consisting of between seventy-five and eighty men, was at Ft. Ridgely when word came that the massacre had started on the Lower Sioux Agency. Accordingly Captain John S. Marsh, a Fillmore county man, started for the scene of the bloodshed, with a detachment of forty-six men and accompanied by Interpreter Quinn. They had a bloody encounter with the Indians in which twenty-six soldiers were killed and nine wounded. Captain Marsh was drowned trying to cross the river. The subject of this sketch and the remnant of the company managed to reach Ft. Ridgely and were there on August 20, 1862, when Company C and Company B, of the Fifth Minnesota, and the Renville Rangers were besieged therein. In November of that year the company was sent south. The history of the regiment is a part of the glorious history of the Nation and need not be reproduced here. It is sufficient to print here the names of the engagements in which Company B participated as they appear on a badge which is one of Mr. Hutchison's most treasured possessions: 1862—Redwood, Minn., Aug. 18; Fort Ridgely, Minn., August 20; Fort Abercrombie, Minn., September 3; Iuka, Miss., September 19; Corinth, Miss., October 4. 1863—Mississippi Springs, Miss., May 13; Jackson, Miss., May 14; Assault on Vicksburg, May 22; Sartatia, Miss., June 4; Mechanicsburg, Miss., June 5; Richmond, La., June 14; Canton, Miss., October 16; Brownsville, Miss., October 18; Barton Station, Miss., October 20. 1864—Ft. De Russy, La., March 14; Henderson Hill, La., March 31; Grand Ecore, La., April 2; Compti, La., April 3; Pleasant Hill, La., April 9; Cloutiersville, La., April 23; Cane River, La., April 24; Moore's Plantation, La., May 3; Bayou La Moure, La., May 6; Bayou Roberts, La., May 7; Mansura, La., May 16; Bayou De Glaise, La., May 18; Lake Chicot, Ark., June

6; Tupelo, Miss., July 14; Oxford, Miss., August 21; Abbeyville, Miss., August 23; Nashville, Tenn., December 16. 1865—Fish River, Ala., March 24; Spanish Fort, Ala., April 8; Fort Blakely, Ala., April 9. The regiment was veteranized in February, 1864, and Mr. Hutchison returned home on a furlough July, 1864. He was mustered out at Demopolis, Ala., September 6, 1865, and discharged shortly afterward at Ft. Snelling. While home on his furlough in 1864 he married Angeline Crowell, born on April 11, 1845, daughter of Daniel and Mira Crowell, the former of whom was a native of Chelsea, Mass., and brought his family to Bristol in 1853. After his return from the war Mr. Hutchison and his young bride moved into a log house on a claim in sections 28 and 33, Bristol township, which he had purchased the year before. In this house they lived until 1881, when a fine frame building was erected. In 1908 they sold their farm to their son, William, and purchased a residence in Preston village, where they still reside. Mr. Hutchison made a success of farming, and is known far and wide as a bee fancier, having kept an apiary of one hundred hives of bees for over thirty years. While in the township he held nearly all the important local offices within the gift of his fellow citizens. He has the proud distinction of being entitled to wear a splendid bronze medal, presented to him by the representatives of the sovereign state of Minnesota, in legislature assembled, as a slight recognition of his services in the Indian campaigns. He is quartermaster sergeant of Underwood Post, No. 122, G. A. R., and a member of Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M. To Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison seven children have been born; Amy D., William G., Daniel H., Effie J., Anna L., Lela F. and Arthur E. Amy D. married Richard Salmon, of Valentine, Neb., and they have four children; Allen B., Harry, Bessie and George. William G. married Florence Henry and they live on the old homestead. They have three children; Leonard, George, Addie and an adopted daughter, Olive. Daniel H. married Eva Broadwater, of Bristol, and they live in Oliver county, North Dakota. They are the parents of five daughters; Zella, Verna, Alice, Nina and Maudie. Effie J. is the wife of John Roberts, of Bristol township, this county, and they have four children; Hazel, Robert and the twins, Hilda and Harry. Anna L. is the wife of W. F. Clark, of Charles City, Iowa, and they have four children; Zelda, Eugene, Amy J. and Marion. Lela F. is the wife of Raymond Goodell, of Norfolk, Neb., and they have two children, George R. and Dorothy. Arthur E. married Lulu Harding. They live in Washington.

**F. B. Wolf**, of Preston, was born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1875, son of John and Sarah (Brecuiner) Wolf. His father came to Illinois from Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1852, where

for a short time he was employed, after which he came to Iowa and located in Guthrie county, but later returned to Illinois. In 1884 he left Illinois and again came to Iowa settling this time in Bremer county where he lived for ten years. Mr. Wolf then moved to Idaho and from there to Preston. F. B., his son, attended school in Iowa and assisted his father with the farm work and later became a carpenter. In 1903 and 1904 he worked in the City Roller Mills in Preston and two years later purchased the historic old mill which was built in 1857 by Way-bright & Schweitzer for a woolen mill, and here he has since conducted business on his own responsibility. In 1874, this mill was converted into a feed mill and as such Mr. Wolf runs it, successfully carrying on the feed business and doing custom work for the farmers of the county. He married Emma, the daughter of Charles and Minnie (Filk) Daberkow, natives of Germany, and this marriage has been blessed with five children, Iver V., Ervin H., Orville W., Vera W., and Verl. The brick residence in which Mr. Wolf lives was built in 1859, two years after the completion of the mill, which he owns. The dam which stretched across the Root river was formerly constructed of logs but was rebuilt of cement by Mr. Wolf, who is an industrious and progressive man. The family faith is that of the Church of the Brethren and in this house of worship, Mr. Wolf officiates as the minister, having been a devout follower of this faith for the past eighteen years.

**Peter Hutton**, an old settler of Fillmore county, and a fine example to the younger generation of a self made and successful farmer, was born in Dumbartonshire Parish of Drydenand, Scotland, in April, 1836, son of John and Margaret (Burns) Hutton, also natives of that country. He was left motherless at the age of nine years, and at the age of twenty years in the fall of 1856 came to America. He located in Preston township this county and became a permanent resident. The father who settled in Preston township some years later passed away in 1882. Peter pre-empted 160 acres of land in Section 14, Preston township, which he traded with his brother Robert for land in Section 27, where he now lives. He developed the land, erected a house and other buildings, and engaged in general farming. As the years passed, he added to his holdings from time to time until at present he owns over 700 acres, working 200 acres himself and renting the remainder. He also owns 160 acres in Olmsted county, Minnesota, 160 acres in Ransom county and 160 acres in Richlieu county, the latter two being in North Dakota. In addition to this he has other holdings, and is a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of Preston. He is a Repub-

lican in politics, and in the early days served as treasurer of his school district. Mr. Hutton is regarded by his neighbors as a man of sterling worth, a good citizen in every way, and one who has accomplished much by his own efforts. He was married on July 6, 1897, to Minnie Wilson, born December 30, 1870, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson, early settlers, still living on their farm near Hutton. Mr. and Mrs. Hutton have been blessed with one child, Wallace, born February 16, 1898, who is at home. The family faith is that of the Presbyterian church.

Edward A. Highum, who is now serving his third term as county treasurer, was born in Arvendahl township, on August 5, 1876, son of Peter and Helena (Brekke) Highum. During the early years of his boyhood, the subject of this biography attended the district school near his old home, and as he became older he went to Red Wing where he entered the Lutheran Academy, remaining there for two years, after which he completed his education with a commercial course in Breckenridge College, at Decorah, Iowa. Returning home, Mr. Highum assisted his father with the work on the farm, and continued in this occupation until 1902, during which year he accepted a position in the First National Bank, at Rushford, as assistant cashier. He remained in this position until the year 1906, when he resigned to accept the position which he holds at the present time, that of treasurer of Fillmore county. In this office, Mr. Highum is giving excellent service, and he has the confidence and esteem of the citizens of this county. Politically, he affiliates with the Republican party, and being of a fraternal disposition he has become a member of the prominent lodges and orders of the county, belonging to blue lodge, chapter and commandery of the Masons and also to the Knights of Pythias, and the Modern Woodmen. On October 28, 1903, Mr. Highum was united in marriage with Charlotte Swanson, born in Lanesboro, this county, February 4, 1880, daughter of Martin and Belle Swanson. To Mr. and Mrs. Highum a son Percival was born September 4, 1905. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church, to the support of which Mr. Highum is a liberal contributor, and of which he and his estimable wife are respected members.

C. I. Peterson has been a resident of Preston since early childhood. He is the son of Christian and Ingeborg Peterson, natives of Norway, and was born in Rushford, Minnesota, December 16, 1872. His parents moved to Preston when he was but a small boy, and there he attended school and acquired his education. After reaching manhood's estate, he was employed on a farm for several years after which he went to work for Mr.

Renner, a blacksmith, and learned this trade. In 1903 he purchased the business from Mr. Renner and has since conducted it by himself. His success is due to his industry and perseverance and for these characteristics he is respected by his fellow men. Mr. Peterson belongs to the Preston Lodge No. 36 A. F. & A. M. and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of Preston. He married Marrie Olson, daughter of O. B. Olson and to them two children have been born, Ralph Stewart and Marian Toinette, who are a blessing in their home.

**James Kerr**, a respected citizen of Preston is a native of Scotland, born April 21, 1847, son of Alexander and Janette (Miller) Kerr. The father met with an accidental death in Canada, where he had established his home after coming to America. The mother died in Illinois. They were the parents of four children, Alexander, of Park Rapids; Daniel, deceased; James, of Preston; and Margaret, of Canada. James, the subject of this biography, was but a young boy when he came to America with his parents, and he acquired his education in the schools of both Canada and the United States. In 1864 he came to Minnesota and located in this county, but soon after decided to homestead land in Jackson, to which he then moved and where he lived for five years. At the expiration of that time, he returned to Fillmore county and settled in Preston, where he engaged in teaming for several years. Mr. Kerr is now agent for the Wolverine Soup Company, of Portlid, Michigan. On June 21, 1870, he was united in marriage with Nellie Johnson, who was born in Norway and came to this country when a child. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr are the parents of eleven children. Ulysses studied in the Boston Conservatory of Music, also in Europe, and now is a bass singer in a Presbyterian church in New York City. He married Rowena Powel. James, now of La Crosse, is a bass singer and vocal teacher. He married Bertha Caple and they have had four children, Reamer (deceased), Reginald, Madeline and Gordon. John, of LaCrosse married Anna Petricek and has three children, Marjorie, Warren and Virginia. Alexander married Rose Blaha and lives in LaCrosse. They are the parents of Camille, Jean, Evelyn (deceased), and George. Edward Clinton married Kittie Rappe and they have one child, Rowena. They reside in LaCrosse. Andrew Millen is a singer in Chicago. Nettie lives at home. Margaret is now Mrs. William Rappe of LaCrosse and has a daughter, Viola. Betsy married William Ashton of Fountain and has four children, Vernon, Gladys, Nellie and James. Ruth is the wife of Frank Horsch of Clear Lake, Iowa, and has one child, Inez M. Gilbert A. married Hattie Flinn and lives in Preston. Daniel died at the age of eighteen months.

Mr. Kerr is a Prohibitionist in political opinions. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and has been a member of the Good Templars for several years.

**A. D. Gray**, one of the prominent attorneys of southern Minnesota, with offices and home in Preston, has been called one of Fillmore county's most useful citizens, and has well deserved this title, by his excellent public service. He is a native of the Empire state, born in Oneida county, New York, November 13, 1845, son of Alonzo G. and Lucy A. (Murch) Gray. In 1852 his parents moved from New York to Pennsylvania, and two years later they set out for Minnesota, driving the entire distance, this trip consuming six weeks. Upon their arrival in this state, they settled in Newburg, this county. A. D. attended the public schools near his home, having at one time been a pupil of William Willford. In 1863 he entered the Upper Iowa University, at Fayette, Iowa. Thus equipped with a good education, Mr. Gray returned to his home and for the succeeding ten years, he taught school in that vicinity. He was united in marriage with Emma W. Seelye, on March 24, 1868, and their home has been blessed with six children. Stella E., is now the wife of Edward Whitman, a civil engineer of St. Paul. Archibald D., an attorney at law, lives in Carrolton township, where he makes a specialty of breeding fancy Jersey cattle; Lucy A. married Rev. H. Rasmussen, who has been a pastor at Lanesboro for some twenty years. Nettie M. is the wife of Dr. B. H. Kroeze, president of Jamestown College. Andrew G. is a successful lawyer of Spokane, Washington. Alton E. is a farmer of Preston township, and makes a specialty of raising pure bred Jersey cattle. During the period of his residence in Newburg, Mr. Gray served as justice of the peace for six years, and held many offices of minor importance. In 1870, he was honored by being elected to the office of county commissioner, and in this capacity he was retained for seven years, resigning to accept the office of county clerk of the district court, assuming the duties of this office in 1878, and continuing until 1890. He was admitted to the Minnesota bar in November, 1881, and that same year formed a partnership with Senator R. E. Thompson, transacting business under the name of Gray & Thompson, from then until the present time. Mr. Gray was presidential elector and cast the electoral vote from his district for the late President Benjamin Harrison. He was sent as a delegate to the Republican Convention which nominated William McKinley for his first term as president of the United States. He has also served in other capacities, and his record in the town and county is a most enviable one. It is, perhaps, in working for the public schools of Preston, that Mr.



Gray has reared his most enduring monument. While he was not the founder of the public school system in Preston, the people of the village maintain that he has been the most important factor in bringing that system to its present high standard. Taking the presidency of the school board when the schools were in a more or less undeveloped stage, he has given of his time and talent freely for nearly thirty-three years, and the efficiency of the schools at present is in itself the highest encomium that can be written of Mr. Gray's work in this capacity.

**Richard E. Thompson**, of the prominent law firm of Gray & Thompson, and for thirty years a substantial member of the Fillmore county bar, was born in the township of Preble, this county, March 7, 1857, son of Iver and Celia (Walder) Thompson, the pioneers. He received his preliminary education in the district schools of Newburg township, and later attended the Breckinridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa. Subsequently he taught school until 1879, and then studied law in the office of H. R. Wells, at Preston, Minn., being admitted to the bar in 1881. The same year he entered into his present successful partnership with A. D. Gray. In 1881, the same year he was admitted to the bar, Mr. Thompson was appointed deputy clerk of the District Court for Fillmore county. From 1883 to 1885 he served in the lower house of the Minnesota State Legislature, and from 1895 to 1905 he did the county distinguished service in the upper house of that body. He has also served in other local offices. The subject of this sketch was married in 1884 to Anna Thompson, and to this union two children have been born, Victor C. and Inez M. Victor is studying medicine in the medical department of the University of Minnesota. Inez M. is a student in Carlton College, at Northfield, Minn. The family residence is in Preston.

**Iver Thompson**, pioneer, now deceased, was born in Stavanger, Norway, June 24, 1829, and after attending school worked at his trade as a carpenter until coming to America in 1848. He was also similarly employed in Chicago from 1848 to 1852, being married there July 4, 1850, to Celia Walder. In 1852 they moved to Fox River, La Salle county, Illinois, and two years later came to Preble township, in this county. Upon their arrival here in 1854 Iver pre-empted 160 acres of wild land in sections 26 and 27. This he broke and improved. In 1860 he sold this farm and purchased a farm in section 8, Newberg, where he continued to engage in farming. His wife, Celia Walder Thompson, died August 6, 1862. Of the children whom she bore to the subject of this sketch, four are living. Mr. Thompson was married Novem-

ber 2, 1862, to Rachel Walder, and four children from this union are also living. Iver Thompson passed away January 23, 1893.

**Purdy Hart**, a sturdy old pioneer, now deceased, was born in Westchester county, New York, August 17, 1812. In 1856 he came westward and took a claim in section 33, Preston, where he built a log cabin in which he lived some four or five years. The nearest markets then were McGregor, Iowa, seventy miles away, and Winona, Minn., fifty miles away. In 1864 he moved to Carimona, and there lived a year. In 1865 he erected a house in section 4, Harmony township, and acquired considerable tracts of land. He died in 1883, honored and beloved by all who knew him. His wife, Phoebe Jane Boice Hart, a daughter of William and Susan Boice, was born on January 31, 1834, in Putnam county, New York. She died in August, 1897, her declining years being made happy by the love and respect of the entire community.

**Joseph Hart**, one of the common-sense farmers of Preston township, was born in Carimona, Minn., December 24, 1862, son of Purdy and Phoebe Jane (Boice) Hart, the pioneers. He was reared on the home farm in section 4, Harmony township, and attended the schools of district 37. He now has an excellent farm in section 33, and resides in a comfortable home which he erected in 1908, his barns and outbuildings being in keeping with his home and farm. February 12, 1890, he married Annie Brady, a native of Maryland, and they have one daughter, Jennie Muriel, born January 1, 1891. She married Orvis Nelson. Mrs. Hart was born at Johnstown, Md., August 18, 1866, daughter of John and Sarah Ann (Shirver) Brady. Her father was born at Baltimore, Md., October 25, 1829, and her mother at Salisbury, Pa., October 12, 1833. They came from Maryland to Minnesota in 1869, located in Fillmore county and followed farming until 1890, when they retired and moved to Preston, where they spent the balance of their days, the father dying March 8, 1905, and the mother October 30, 1910.

**W. H. Williams** who for many years has been closely identified with the various public offices of the village of Preston, was born in Greenlake county, Wisconsin, November 23, 1854, son of Robert and Alice (Hughes) Williams, natives of Wales who came to America in 1843 and located in Wisconsin, where they later met and were married. The father followed general farming all his life and was summoned by death in October, 1909. The mother still makes her home at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. To them eight children were born of whom three died in infancy. The others are as follows: W. H., Robert, living in Wisconsin;

Mrs. Ann J. Roberts of Washington; David, residing at Fond du Lac; and Daniel, living on the old homestead. W. H., the subject of this biography, received his education in the public schools of his native state, and later attended the University of Minnesota, at St. Paul. After completing his studies in this institution, he was employed by the C., M. & St. P. in secret service work, with headquarters in Minneapolis. He remained in this work for two years, after which he was engaged in the real estate business, and also taught school. He came to York township, Fillmore county, in 1874, purchased 110 acres of land, and for fifteen years carried on general farming together with carpentry and building. In 1903 he rented his farm and moved into the village of Preston, where he has retired from active life and is enjoying the fruits of his years of labor. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, belongs to Masons and Odd Fellows, and holds the office of trustee in the latter organization. He is a stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Preston and for fifteen years he has been assessor of the town. While a resident of York, was chairman of the town board for thirteen years, and served many terms on the school board. In all offices to which his fellow townsmen have elected him he has given his best efforts; and his honesty and integrity have placed him in the high esteem of the residents of Preston.

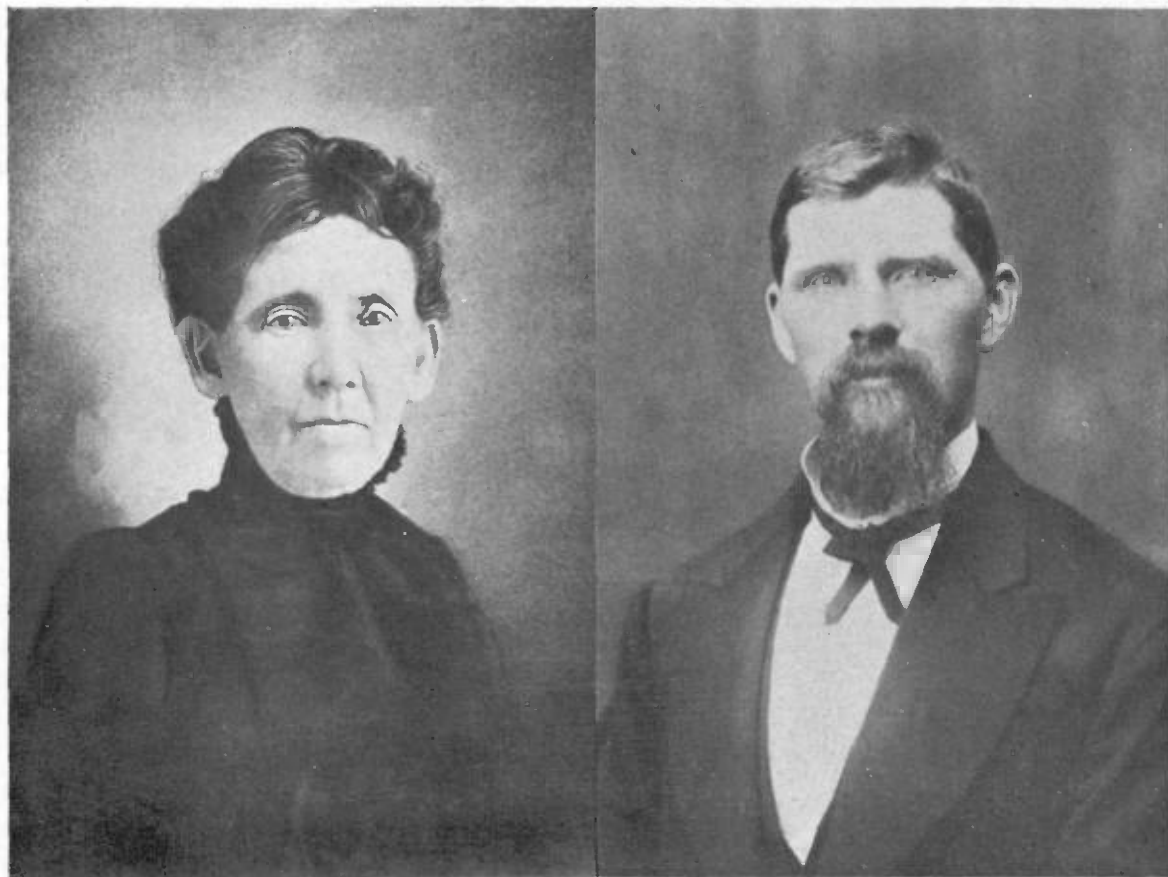
He was married, in December, 1890, to Margaret Williams, born at Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, January 20, 1860, daughter of William J. and Ann (Williams) Williams, natives of Wales. They came to Wisconsin as children, located in Fillmore county in 1869, and now live in retirement in Lime Springs, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Williams have one daughter, Alice, born October 5, 1891, and now a student in the high school.

William A. Pfister is a native of this county, born August 26, 1887, son of Jacob and Katherine (Martzolf) Pfister, the former of whom came to this country from France, and the latter of whom was born and reared in Preston. William A. passed the years of his boyhood on the old home farm and, like the average boy of his day, went to the district school, and was kept busy during vacation periods assisting with the farm work. When he attained his majority, he began farming on his own responsibility, and now owns a valuable piece of property, which comprises 177 acres of fertile land. This farm, Mr. Pfister cultivates and causes to yield large grain crops and also to serve as pasture for his stock. He is particularly interested in stock raising, making a specialty of Red Poll cattle. His comfortable and substantial dwelling house is situated directly opposite the home of his father, and his commodious out buildings evidence

the thrift and persevering industry with which the farm is managed. Hannah E. Burmeister, a daughter of William T. and Mary (Bigalk) Burmeister, became the wife of Mr. Pfister, and to them one son, Arthur O., has been born.

**Jacob Pfister**, a prosperous farmer residing in the township of Preston, was born in France and came to America with his parents in 1853. Upon their arrival in the states, the family came west and located at Locust Lane, near Decorah, Iowa. For a time, the father worked out for different farmers, and in 1879 secured land in section 7, Preston, where he established his permanent home and reared his family of children. Jacob the son grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education in the common schools of the township. He married Katherine Martzolf, a native of Preston, and in 1879 moved to this county and purchased 343½ acres located in section 7. He has one of the finest homes and farms in Preston township situated on the crest of one of the beautiful hills which overlook the village. He carries on diversified farming and has been most successful in his life's work. His home has been blessed with the following children: Margaret, wife of William Kuethe, of Preston; Jacob, now deceased; Katherine, wife of Ruben Workman, of Preston; William A., Ruben, at home; Herbert, a student at the Chicago Dental college; Clara, at home; and Lydia, at home.

**Wilhelm H. Krees**, a retired farmer now residing in Columbia, Village of Preston, was born in Norway, February 19, 1850. When he was but three years old, his parents, John and Carrie (Hellickson) Krees, brought him across the broad ocean. A year after their arrival in the United States, they came to Minnesota, settling in section 22, Preston township. Here the father built a house of logs, and as the years passed and he prospered, he erected a frame dwelling in which he spent the remainder of his life, entering into rest on New Year's Day, 1895. Wilhelm H. was reared on his parents' farm and as the infirmities of age prevented his father from taking an active part in the cares of the farm, he assumed charge of it, and continued to reside there until June, 1910. He then sold the property and moved into the village, where he is enjoying many of the comforts of life earned by his years of good management on the farm. He married Betsy Jacobson, daughter of Lewis and Anna (Torgerson) Jacobson, natives of Norway who came to America and located on a farm in Preston township, the father dying in 1883 and the mother in 1893. Mrs. Betsy Krees died August 9, 1900. June 2, 1909, Mr. Krees married Emma Jacobson, a half sister of his first wife, and this union has resulted in one daughter, Alice.



MR. AND MRS. I. J. PARKER

The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Krees is a Republican in politics, and while living on the farm held many town offices, including service as supervisor and assessor. John Krees, father of Wilhelm Krees, was born in Germany, was there educated, and learned the weaver's art. In early manhood he went to Norway, and there met and married Carrie Hellickson, a native of that country.

Rev. Eli Engle was a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and married Elizabeth Shook, a native of the same state. He was ordained a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, and occupied various pulpits in Maryland. He came to Minnesota with his wife and family in 1863, located in Carrolton township, and carried on general farming. To Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Engle a family of twelve children were born, of whom Lydia, Kate A., Perry, Charles L. and Amos B. are now living; John-son, Nancy, Jane, Elisha, John W., William and Mary E. are deceased. Rev. Engle passed away in 1872 and his widow entered into rest in 1898.

Mrs. I. J. Parker has been a resident of Preston since the month of November, 1863, having come to this village from Maryland with her parents. She married Henry Ruckle and is the mother of one child, Franklin B. Ruckle, now a retired farmer residing in Waverly, Wright county, Minnesota. He has three daughters, Anna, Ellen and Emily. His three sons, Henry, Frank and George, have been claimed by death. The subject of this sketch was married October 12, 1876, at Preston to I. J. Parker. Mr. Parker was a miller by trade and was employed in the Home Flour mill for twenty years. His death, which occurred January 26, 1901, was a great loss to the community and sincerely mourned by a host of friends and acquaintances. Mrs. Parker is a daughter of Rev. Eli and Elizabeth (Shook) Engle, natives of Sommerset county, Pennsylvania, who came to Minnesota in 1863 and located in the township of Carrolton, where the father carried on general farming.

She and her sister Kate A. make their home together in Preston, where Mrs. Parker owns a very comfortable and substantial dwelling. They passed their girlhood years in Alleghany county, Maryland, and received their education in the schools of that state.

Samuel A. Langum, editor of the "Preston Times," and a man of affairs, is a native born son of whom the county may well be proud. He was born in Bloomfield township, this county, August 18, 1857, son of Andrew and Gurine Langum, the pioneers.

After attending the district schools of his neighborhood he studied at the Marshall Academy at Marshall, Wis., and at the Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, subsequent to which he returned home and taught school for a while. After this, in 1876, at the age of nineteen years, he was appointed deputy register of deeds for Fillmore county. In 1880, when but twenty-three years old, Mr. Langum was elected sheriff, and assumed the duties of that office in January, 1881, thus achieving the distinction of being the first native born son to hold an elective position in the county and of being one of the youngest, if not the very youngest, sheriffs to serve in the state of Minnesota. Upon retiring from that office, January 1, 1887, he devoted his time to the newspaper which he had purchased in July, 1886, changing the name from that of Preston Democrat to that of Preston Times. Since that date, Mr. Langum has continued at the head of this paper. In 1890-91, he was deputy warden of the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater, in 1893 he became a member of the lower house of the Minnesota Legislature, and two years later he was elected secretary of the state senate, holding the office with distinction during eight consecutive legislative sessions. In December, 1907, he was elected postmaster of the national House of Representatives, serving during the Sixtieth and Sixty-first Congresses, when he was succeeded by a Democrat. Since then he has devoted his attention to his paper and to his other interests in Preston. As an editor, Mr. Langum has stood for that which is most desirable in country journalism, always advocating progress and the cause of the people, at the same time avoiding impulse and radicalism, and maintaining a sane, careful and conservative attitude. In 1898, his brother editors recognized his worth by electing him president of the Minnesota State Editorial Association. September 14, 1878, the subject of this sketch married Emma C. McCollum, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and to this union four children were born: Alfred H., William M., Nora and Winifred. Alfred H. is associated with his father in business. William is dead. Nora is the wife of N. J. Barberas and lives in Sioux City, Iowa. Winifred lives at home.

Alfred H. Langum, a popular young man of Preston, associated with his father in the publication of the Preston Times, was born August 30, 1879, and graduated from the Preston high school in June, 1899. He was assistant postmaster at Preston two years, then worked for his father a year, and then, in October, 1903, purchased a half interest in the Preston Times, since which time he has been in charge of the business end of the firm. He is a member of the city council, and of the Fillmore County Fair Board, and is also secretary of the Preston Commercial Club.

Charles Elroy Butler was born in Kane county, Illinois, April 8, 1862. He went with family to Ames, Iowa, in July, 1873, and started to learn the printer's trade in the Ames Intelligencer office in the fall of that year. He came to Fillmore county in 1883 with a theatrical company which exhibited in Preston during the fair. He has worked in Chicago, LaCrosse, and at various other places; has studied medicine and law; been conductor and brakeman on different railways; is a steam-fitter, and an expert in the procuring department of the centralizing creamery industry. He is a Democrat by nature but exceedingly independent in politics. He is dean of journalism in the county with thirty-nine years' service, for during all other activities he has still been correspondent for one or more papers.

John J. Merrill, sturdy old pioneer of Fillmore county, was born in Paris, Oneida county, N. Y., November 2, 1830, son of John and Percy (Morrison) Merrill, early residents of New York state, the former of whom died in 1854 and the latter in 1839. In the family were nine children, of whom John J. is the only survivor. John J. received his early education in the Bridge-water and Paris (N. Y.) district schools, and at the age of eighteen years he entered the Saukquoit Academy in the latter place, and stayed there three terms. In 1854 he went to New York, and learned the bookbinding trade, remaining there one year. He tired of this confinement however, and decided to enter the Whitestown Seminary, at Whitestown, N. Y., for two years, subsequently teaching school several terms in the East. During this time he caught the inspiration of the times by hearing talks and reading literature on the possibilities of the far-away West, Minnesota being his objective point. The slogan, "Go west, young man," was the commonest expression of the times. Consequently he came west in May, 1856. Upon reaching Preston he pre-empted 160 acres in Carimona township, built a log cabin, and started on his long and useful life here. A year later he sold this place at a nice profit. For four years he taught school in Preston and one year in Elliot, teaching winters and farming summers, also dealing to some extent in real estate. In 1857 he bought eighty acres in Carrolton township, and broke, grubbed and improved it. On this place he farmed forty years, in the meantime living in the village. In 1872 he became the owner of eighty acres of his original pre-emption claim. This he broke and otherwise improved and worked it in connection with his home farm. His home generally speaking has always been in Preston, although until his retirement a few years ago, he worked his farm a half mile from the business center of the village.



Mr. Merrill was a prominent official of the county in territorial days. Before the state was admitted he served as assessor; in 1857 he was appointed deputy United States marshal to take the census of the southern part of Fillmore county; and in 1858 he was a delegate to the Democratic State Convention at St. Paul. In statehood days he served as assessor one year, as chairman of the board of supervisors of Preston township several years, and as town clerk two years. Since the village was incorporated he has served as village treasurer one term, as member of the village council several terms, and as mayor of Preston one year. Mr. Merrill is a Democrat and a member of the Presbyterian church. He was married October 2, 1860, at Preston, to Anna E. Read, who was born in England, August 2, 1843, and came to Preston in the fall of 1859, with her parents, William K. and Henrietta (Hardingham) Read, being one of their six children, of whom one other, William K. Read, Jr., of Preston, is living. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill have had four children, of whom two are living. Anna E., the second child born, lives at home. William J., the youngest, is head clerk in the grocery department for Hard & Kuethe Co., of Preston. He married Emma Rappe and they have one child. Aside from his home, Mr. Merrill has an interest in several building lots and buildings in Preston.

Ellef L. Tollefson, now deceased, merchant, banker, produce, grain, and live stock dealer, real estate holder, creamery pioneer and man of affairs, was born in Gol, Halingdal, Norway, April 19, 1837, son of Lars and Mary Tollefson, who brought their family to America in 1849, settling near Beloit, Wisconsin, and coming to this county in 1852, locating in section 18, Newburg township, where they pre-empted a farm which they proceeded to break, develop and cultivate. The father Lars had visited here in 1851. Ellef L., although a young boy, assisted in the establishment of the home, and there spent his early days, making his first business venture while still a youth, when he started operating a threshing machine in the neighborhood. For many years, even while engaged in various other interests, he continued farming in section 1, Canton township, in Newburg, R. P. Johnson being his first partner. The next year he entered into partnership with Gabriel Gabrielson, and the firm of Gabrielson & Tollefson was formed. In 1875 this firm established a branch at Riceford, and Mr. Tollefson moved there, the old partnership still continuing for some two or three years. In 1879, Mr. Tollefson moved the entire establishment, building and all, to Mabel, and two years later, his brother Tollef became a partner in the concern. Branches were established in Newburg and Canton,

and in time the buying of live stock became an important feature. In 1883, Tollef Tollefson took over the Canton business and E. L. Tollefson retained the Mabel establishment. At the same time, Henry C. Hellikson became a partner, and this partnership continued for many years. Afterwards O. H. Tollefson and Arne Rotnem were partners. At the time of Mr. Tollefson's death, the partner was Arne Rotnem, and the general mercantile business is still conducted under the firm name of E. L. Tollefson & Company.

Mr. Tollefson and Henry Hellikson began buying grain in the early eighties, and also made stock dealing an important part of their activities. The buying of grain was an up-hill work. At that time there was no Railroad and Warehouse Commission, and no state supervision of transportation. The "line" warehouses were closely affiliated with the railroads, and naturally the railroad did not favor the building up of a rival company. Consequently Mr. Tollefson and his associates were not allowed to build on the right of way, but had to construct a flat house off the right of way, and use a trestle to convey the grain to the cars. The limited capacity of the flat house and the apparent neglect of the railroad to furnish cars was another difficulty, and this continued even after the warehouse was erected on the right of way. Ofttimes grain was piled in sacks along the track, waiting for shipping facilities over the old narrow gauge road. At various times Mr. Tollefson had partners and buyers at Spring Grove, Caledonia, Harmony, Preston, Lanesboro, Prosper, Canton and Lime Springs. Among his partners in the grain and live stock business at various times may be mentioned John N. Johnson, H. C. Hellikson, William Hart, E. J. Graham, O. J. Wolsted, N. O. Henderson, John P. Johnson, B. J. Morey, James Gribben, Joel Wolsted, E. C. Hellickson and William Ballentine. In 1897 elevators were built at Mabel and Harmony, and later a flat house was erected at Lanesboro. Tollefson & Johnson now constitute the elevator firm at Mabel and rent a warehouse at Prosper. E. L. Tollefson & Co. now own and conduct the elevator and live stock business at Harmony.

E. L. Tollefson was one of the partners in the old creamery firm of W. E. Stanton & Co., which was later succeeded by Tollefson & Graham. This company had creameries at Spring Grove, Mabel and Preston, and a skimming station at Caledonia. This partnership was finally dissolved, E. J. Graham taking the plant at Preston, and E. L. Tollefson the one at Mabel. The latter plant was sold to Knute Olson about 1893. At one time the firm of Tollefson & Graham controlled a number of creameries in the southern part of the county, and shipped butter in car-load lots.

The egg and poultry business also early attracted Mr. Tollef-

son's attention, and he and E. J. Graham conducted an extensive business in this line, buying and shipping. Later Lewis Mork was a partner in this line.

In the meantime Mr. Tollefson had become interested in real estate. He retained his old homestead between Lenora and Newburg for a great many years, or until about 1907, when he sold to Alfred Knudson. He owned business property and residence lots at Mabel and has held lands in Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Dodge, Anoka and Lac qui Parle counties in this state, and in Richland, Kidder and Logan counties in North Dakota, as well as in Winneshiek county, Iowa.

In 1893 the exchange business conducted in connection with the enterprises became too large to be handled in connection with the other business, and the Bank of Mabel was established as a private concern. This continued until 1908, with Mr. Tollefson as sole owner. It was then incorporated as the First National Bank of Mabel, with E. L. Tollefson as president. Mr. Tollefson died February 20, 1911, and his death was a great loss to the entire community. His career, of which but a glimpse is here given, was almost as interesting as a romance—the story of a poor farm boy with but few advantages who took the opportunities which lay at his door, and by pluck, hard work and perseverance, made himself one of the moving spirits of the entire community. One who knew him well has said of him: "In business he was eminently successful, much of which may be attributed to his ability to foresee future developments and opportunities, and also to the fact that he always secured those partners who were invariably loyal and shrewd. He was an active man of rugged constitution up to within three or four years of his death, and looked the equal in vigor and strength of many a much younger man. Much of his work was out of doors, driving the country for live stock and on the street buying live stock and grain. He made many trips to Chicago in the early days and was well known by the dealers there. He was very liberal with those who were owing him, and was never known to foreclose a mortgage when the party owing him showed the least inclination to help himself. A great many owe their first start in life to being able to secure a line of credit from E. L. Tollefson. At the time of the wheat failure in the early days he allowed many of his debtors to leave for Dakota owing him goodly sums. Of this he was paid but a small percentage, and the loss came at a time when he needed the money most, in fact it took him many years to recoup himself for these heavy losses. In fact with all his business ability, his kindness of heart made him a poor collector, and his generosity eased the path of many a struggling pioneer in the early days."

In 1863, Mr. Tollefson married Martha Benson, the ceremony being performed in Faribault. She passed away in 1870, leaving no children, her three babies having died in infancy. March 13, 1873, he married Betsy Engebretson, daughter of Andrew Engebretson. Mrs. Tollefson was born in Norway, and came to America with her father, mother, and the two other children in the family. They settled in section 20, Newburg township, and here the father died in 1883 and the mother in 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Tollefson were the parents of two children: Adolph L. and Amy T. The former is a Mabel banker. The latter married JC White.

Ellef Tollefson, upon coming to this country made a close study of political conditions, and deciding that the platform of the Democratic party most thoroughly embodied his beliefs and political faith, he was ever true to the tenets and candidates of that body.

With this sketch we present a portrait of E. J. Tollefson and three of his grandchildren. He seemed unusually proud and mindful of his children and grandchildren and his later years were spent in anticipating the future well being of his grandchildren, of whom there were six.

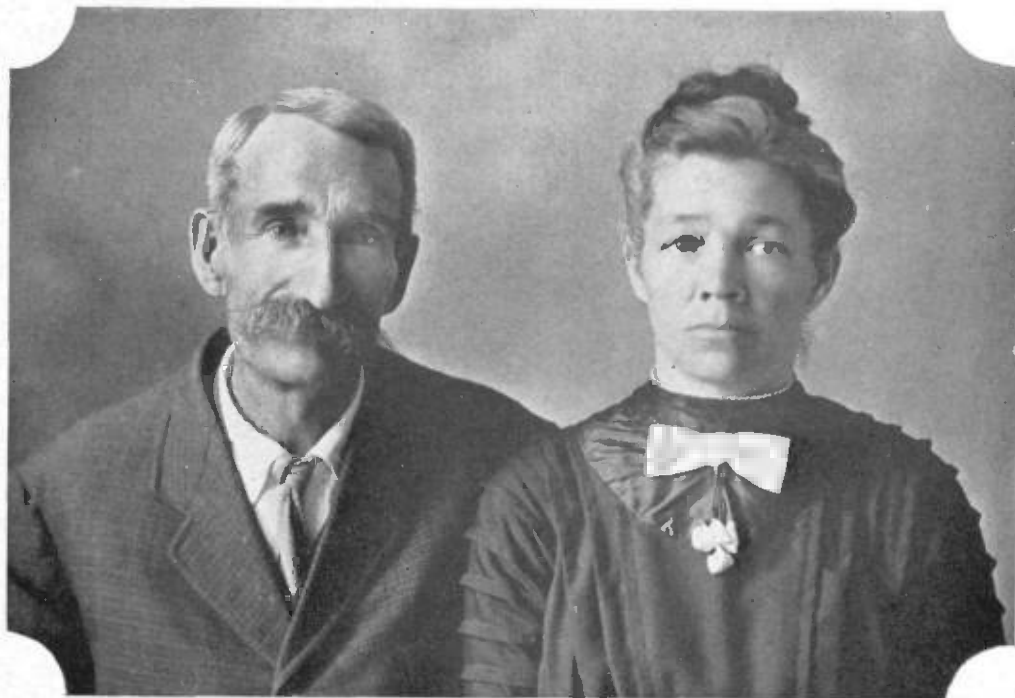
**Adolph L. Tollefson**, cashier of the First National Bank of Mabel, was born November 3, 1874, in Newburg Village, son of Ellef L. and Betsy (Engebretson) Tollefson, natives of Norway. He received a good common school education, and then attended Valder's Commercial School, in Decorah, Iowa, in the fall and winter of 1891-92. Then he came back to his native town, and kept books for a year in the E. L. Tollefson & Co. store and for his father's creamery. His selection in 1893 as cashier of Bank of Mabel which his father owned and founded and which was incorporated as the First National Bank in 1908, met with universal approval. Since then he has shouldered responsibility after responsibility, and in all has proved his worthiness and business acumen. In his capacity as banker he has been made the executor of a number of large estates, and has handled and managed several large properties. He has done his village good service as a progressive member of the school board, and is now treasurer of that body. He has also been treasurer of the village, and likewise recorder for some time. Being a thorough believer in the future of Mabel, he has allied himself with the Mabel Commercial Club and is one of its popular members. In politics he is a Republican. In addition to his personal interests he has a share in the extensive Ellef L. Tollefson estate, and is thus one of the financially substantial men of the county, a fact which adds to the deservedly high reputation which his bank enjoys. The

subject of this sketch married Grace, the daughter of Albert and Celia Jones, and they have had four children: Mildred, Everett, Myra and Donald. Myra died in infancy.

**Daniel P. Bacon**, formerly a prominent official of Mabel and farmer of Newburg township, was born in section 19, this township, August 22, 1860, son of George and Sarah (Payne) Bacon, early settlers. He attended the schools in district 5, Newburg township, and later received a certificate from the Breckenridge Institute, at Decorah, Iowa. He then taught school in this and Houston county nine terms, after which he went to North Dakota, where he farmed two years. Then he farmed two years on the home farm. Subsequently he moved to the village of Mabel and lived there nineteen years. He was one of the incorporators of the village, and was recorder for many years, being also the village justice of the peace, in which capacity he had a large business. In 1911, he moved to section 28, where his family still resides. He married Laura Edna Donaldson, born May 18, 1873, daughter of Gilbert and Ada (Butler) Donaldson, and their children are: John (deceased), Paul D., Esther I., Ruth, Victor G. and Marion P. The family faith is that of the Methodist church, of which Mr. Bacon was one of the oldest members in this vicinity. Mr. Bacon served as justice of the peace and for three years was a member of the town board of supervisors. He died May 17, 1912, leaving a noble heritage of honor and honesty.

**Gilbert Donaldson**, born at Coldwater village, Michigan, November 3, 1841, Miss Katie Butler, his wife, born in Chatteraugus county, New York, July 16, 1853, parents of Mrs. D. P. Bacon of Newburg, came to Minnesota in 1859, and engaged in farming, in which vocation they have continued ever since. They now reside on their farm in Canton township, which they purchased in 1877. They were the parents of four children: Mrs. Alta Nash, who died February 26, 1910; Mrs. Edna Bacon of Newburg township; Mrs. Lydia Bennett of Winneshiek county, Iowa; and Parly, who conducts the home farm with his father.

**Willis C. Beacon**, merchant and banker of Mabel, partner in the firm of Bacon & Erickson, general merchants, and president of the State Bank of Mabel, was born in Oneida county, New York, September 30, 1852, son of Leonard and Rebecca (Bullock) Bacon, who in 1864 came west and settled in section 21, Newburg township, living first in a log cabin on the 160 acres which they then purchased, and later in a frame house on the adjoining twenty-two acres which they purchased. The subject of this sketch received his preliminary education in the schools of



MR. AND MRS. D. P. BACON

his neighborhood, and afterward took higher courses in Hesper and Decorah. In 1872 he started teaching in Newburg, and taught in all, 14 terms, devoting his spare time to farming. April 28, 1880, he married Irene Thomas, a native of Massachusetts. After their marriage they resided on the farm for about a year, and then moved to Mabel, where Mr. Bacon engaged in the mercantile business, receiving also the appointment as postmaster. From 1882 to 1888, the firm was composed of Willis C. Bacon and Dexter W. Bacon, under the firm name of the Bacon Brothers. In the latter year, the scope of the store was broadened, and Gillard B. Ellestad was received as partner, the firm name being Beacon Brothers and Ellestad. This arrangement continued for about three years. Then Mr. Ellestad sold to E. C. Erickson and the firm became Bacon & Erickson. Three years later Willis C. Bacon sold to P. T. Newhouse and the firm then became Erickson & Newhouse. Willis C. Bacon, subject of this sketch, then went to Canton and engaged in the drug business with Dr. H. H. Haskins, under the firm name of W. C. Bacon & Co. About two years later, Mr. Bacon sold out to Dr. Haskins, and returned to Mabel, where he again formed a partnership with Mr. Erickson, letting out Mr. Newhouse, the firm name again being Bacon & Erickson, under which title they still continue.

The Bacon home has been blessed with two children: Leonard T. and Ralph O. Leonard T. married Olive Fairbanks, and they live in Newburg township, on the father's farm. Ralph O. is a student in the Mabel high school. Mr. Bacon was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Mabel, of which he was made president. He served as village treasurer for three years and was clerk of the board of education for some time. In all his activities, his efforts have ever been toward the commercial progress of this section of the country.

**Dexter W. Bacon**, who is doing excellent work as county commissioner of Fillmore county, is a man of shrewdness and sagacity, and has served his fellow citizens in many capacities. In 1890 he became clerk of the district court and occupied that office for eight years. From 1902 until 1910, inclusive, he was assessor of Newburg and he has also served as town clerk for several years. In 1880 and again in 1900 he was census enumerator. Mr. Bacon was born in Deerfield, Oneida county, New York, August 25, 1850, son of Leonard and Rebecca (Bullock) Bacon. His grandfather, Leonard, was a native of Litchfield, Connecticut and moved to New York when a young man, being one of the early settlers in Oneida county. Leonard, the father of Dexter, was born in Oneida county on April 24, 1816, and

there grew to manhood, attended school and was married. In 1864 he came to Minnesota and brought his family, locating on a farm of 160 acres in section twenty-one, Newburg township, Fillmore county. For some time the family lived in the log house which stood on the property when purchased by Mr. Bacon, but as time passed and he grew prosperous, he added to his original possessions, buying twenty-two acres adjoining the original home. On this latter purchase stood a frame dwelling, which later became the residence of the family. Here, Dexter W., the subject of this biography, spent his boyhood days and prepared himself for the responsibilities of life. He attended the schools in Newburg township and lived on the home farm until his first marriage. Josie A. Dibble became his wife in March 16, 1884, and to them were born: Guy W., now living in Canada, and Ray D., a resident of Mabel. Mr. Bacon during this time owned a farm of eighty acres, which he operated, and he also was a partner in Bacon Bros.' store. Josie (Dibble) Bacon died November 8, 1889, after which Mr. Bacon made his home with his brother until elected clerk of court, at which period he moved to Preston. In 1891, Mr. Bacon was united in marriage with Harriet, daughter of George and Sarah (Payne) Bacon. Mrs. Harriet Bacon had for some time been actively interested in all school affairs. She studied under William Willford and others, and then taught twenty-three terms of school, giving excellent satisfaction. To this marriage two daughters, Florence Lucile and Helen R., have been born. During the summer of 1899 Mr. and Mrs. Bacon traveled considerably, and upon their return to Minnesota moved to the A. H. Butler farm, which they later purchased and upon which they resided for four years. At the expiration of this period of time, Mr. Bacon returned to his old farm on section twenty-three, Newburg, where he lived for eight years, and then moved with his family to Mabel, their present home. Mr. Bacon is a member of Preston Lodge, A. F. & A. M., becoming a member of that body in 1891.

George Allen Bacon, son of Colby and Julia A. Bacon, was born near Utica, Oneida county, New York, November 4, 1830, the eldest of a family of four children, two sisters and one brother. The early part of his life was spent in Oneida county, New York. He learned the carpenter and cooper trades when a young man, and worked at his trades for several years. He also spent some years as a traveling salesman for jewelry, making many towns in the northern part of New York. On March 14, 1858, he was united in marriage to Sarah Payne, of Cold Brook, Herkimer county, New York, and to them were born eight children, George, Daniel, Harriet, Edward, Frank, John,



Archie, and Herbert. John, Archie and Herbert died during their early childhood. The first year of Mr. and Mrs. Bacon's married life was spent at Trenton Falls, N. Y., where their eldest son, George, was born on March 18, 1859. The possibilities of the then Far West appealing to him, he, in company with his father and brother, Charles, left New York in the fall of 1858 in search of a location. They came to Fillmore county, and located in Newburg township, on what is now the Gilbert Olson farm. George and the father returned to New York, leaving Charles in Minnesota. The following fall he, in company with his wife and child, then six months old, his father and mother, left New York to seek their fortunes in the West, landing in Newburg township, Minnesota, in October, 1859. He soon purchased forty acres of land in Canton township, and by adding to what he first bought he became possessed of 280 acres of land. This represented several years of hard work, many privations of pioneer life, great industry, and frugality; but with cheerfulness he accomplished his aim, to become independent and possessed of a home for wife and children. In 1876 Mr. Bacon visited his old birthplace in New York. He was naturally of a retiring nature, and his home was his kingdom. He and his wife were greatly beloved, and their kindness, unaffected hospitality and fraternal spirit won for them a large acquaintance and many true friends. The stranger was always made welcome in their home. In the spring of 1892 Mr. Bacon sold his farm, moved to Mabel, Minn., and built a home on a twenty-acre farm, which he had previously acquired, adjoining the village. Here he resided during the remainder of his life. Mrs. Bacon died on June 24, 1903. Although the home was then broken, yet Mr. Bacon lived on in the same house with his son Daniel, from whom he was never separated but for a short time for fifty years. The nine following years were lonely ones, in spite of the loving care of his children, and after a lingering illness he passed away, February 7, 1910, at his home in Mabel.

**Fred W. Bacon**, a prominent citizen, and a prosperous merchant of the firm of Bacon & Stroud, Mabel, was born in Newburg township, May 7, 1866, son of Charles W. and Ellen (Potts) Bacon. He was reared on the home farm, attended school in district 64, and remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he moved to Mabel, and engaged in the business in which he still continues. He married Georgiana Dahl, daughter of J. P. Dahl, one of the pioneer merchants of Mabel, and this union has been blessed with one daughter, Florence. Mrs. Bacon died August 6, 1897. As a man of affairs Mr. Bacon was recorder of the village twelve years, and is now treasurer of the Mabel

Commercial Club; fraternally, he is financier of Mabel Lodge, No. 191, A. O. U. W.; in business, aside from his store, he is secretary of the Mabel Opera House Company; in religion, he is a Methodist; and, in politics, a Republican.

**Charles W. Bacon**, now deceased, one of the early settlers of Newburg township, was born in Oneida county, New York, May 3, 1837, son of Colby Bacon, then a resident of that state. The father, Colby Bacon, and two sons, Charles W. and George, came to Newburg township in 1858, and located in section 19, the father Colby and the brother George returning to New York state, but coming here again and locating the following year. Charles W. remained and became a successful farmer and prominent citizen. For several years he filled with honor the position of town treasurer. In 1868 he removed to section twenty-seven in the same township, and there remained until 1889, when he located in Mabel and retired from active life. He died March 12, 1910. His wife, Ellen Potts, whom he married in 1861, was born in Litchfield township, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, March 28, 1846, and died in Mabel, August 14, 1911. They were the parents of seven children, of whom four are living and three dead. Ida is now Mrs. G. W. Rathburn, of Ossian, Iowa. Fred W. is a merchant in Mabel. Charles H. is on the home farm. Gertrude is the wife of Rev. I. L. Melott, a Methodist clergyman, now stationed in Appleton, Wis. Leonard died in infancy. Willis died at the age of seventeen years. Nellie died in infancy.

**JC White**, banker in the village of Mabel, was born in Chatfield, December 25, 1876, son of Congressman Milo and Hannah A. (Allis) White. He obtained his early training in the schools of Chatfield, and later entered the law department of the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1898. While this legal training has been of great value to him in his business ventures, he has never devoted his time entirely to the practice of law. In 1901 he came to Mabel and associated himself with his father-in-law, Ellef L. Tollefson, in the banking business, being at the present time vice-president of the First National Bank of Mabel. Mr. White is a popular member of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., and of Winona Consistory, No. 4, A. & A. S. R., being a Mason of the thirty-second degree. He has devoted much of his time to historical and geneological study, and has traveled extensively in investigating history. Being a descendant of Peregrin White, the first white child born in Plymouth colony, has made this endeavor of special interest. The subject of this sketch married Martha, the daughter of Ellef L. and Betsy (Engebretson) Tollefson, and they have three children, Clifton M., Louis A.

and Elbertus H. Socially, Mr. White is president of the Mabel Commercial Club. Politically, he is a Republican. Religiously, he adheres to the tenets of the Unitarian faith, while his wife is a Methodist.

**Charles D. Taber**, a successful merchant of the village of Mabel, was born in Hesper, Iowa, November 5, 1857, son of David C. and Harriet (Heading) Taber. He was reared in Hesper, and on the home farm in Newburg, and remained at home until twenty years of age. For a number of years he engaged in farming in section twenty-eight, Newburg township, and then moved into the village of Mabel and engaged in the farm implement business, which he conducted alone for nearly twenty years. In 1911 Mr. Taber formed a partnership with James Easton, and the firm is now known as Taber & Easton. The concern does a large business, and enjoys the same enviable reputation for honest and liberal dealing which Mr. Taber maintained alone for so many years. Mr. Taber has deemed it his duty to take an active part in public affairs, and at various times has faithfully served in different town and village offices. He was married March 6, 1880, to Laura, the daughter of Axom and Leanna (Freer) Johnson, and this union has been blessed with two children. Grace is the wife of Clifford Finck, of Grand Forks, N. D. Fred lives at home.

**Joseph R. Griswold**, one of the venerable citizens of Fillmore county, now residing in the village of Mabel, was born in Middlebury, Addison county, Vermont, January 27, 1830. As an infant he lost his father, and when ten years of age he was placed under the guardianship of E. M. Rider, with whom he lived until reaching the age of eighteen years, when he started to learn the carpenter trade, at which he continued, more or less, until a few years ago. As a youth he did general carpenter work, assisted in the construction of railroad stations a time, and for several years was partner in a sash, door and blind factory in his native town. In 1856 he came west to Hesper, Iowa, and three years later bought a farm in section thirty-five, Newburg township, where he lived practically all the time until 1903, when he and his wife moved to the village of Mabel and retired from active life. Previous to this they had lived in the village for short intervals several times. Mr. Griswold was prominent in the affairs of his township, served as supervisor some time, and for nine years was clerk of school district six, which he assisted in promoting. He is now eighty-two years of age, hale and hearty, and highly respected throughout the community. Mr. Griswold was married in Middlebury, Vt., December 7, 1852, to Nancy L. Goodrich, daughter of Moses Goodrich, and this union was blessed with three children:

Isabella, now Mrs. William Mathews, of Marshalltown, Iowa; Edmund A., and Winfield M. Mrs. Nancy L. Griswold died January 27, 1870. The present Mrs. Griswold was Mrs. Maria Gibbs, daughter of John and Tabitha (Hartwell) Ladd, born in Lincoln, Vt. Her father was a shoemaker. He died in 1853, and the mother then came to Bluffton, Iowa, where she died.

**Ernest R. Antrim**, editor and publisher of the "Mabel Record," was born in Hesper township, Iowa, June 9, 1881, son of L. J. and Kate (Welch) Antrim. He obtained his early schooling in Hesper, Iowa, and in 1899 came to Mabel with his parents. He learned his trade as a printer in Mabel, working on the "Mabel Tribune" under H. E. Wheaton, and the "Mabel Sentinel" with George W. Drowley, and on the "Mabel Record," with which he has been connected since its establishment, first working as an employe, then leasing it, and finally purchasing it. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, a staunch advocate of the prohibition cause, and quite devoted to the study of the honey bee and the production of choice honey.

**Rev. William A. Rasmussen** comes of a family that has done noble service to the cause of Lutherism in America. He resides at Mabel, has charge of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregations at Mabel, Newburg and Hesper, and exerts an influence for good throughout the community. He was born in Kendall county, Illinois, February 1, 1863, son of Rev. P. A. and Ragnhild (Holland) Rasmussen, the former of whom was a clergyman in that county for some forty-five years. The subject of this sketch attended the common schools in Illinois, the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, the Capital University at Columbus, Ohio, and the United Lutheran Seminary at Northfield, Minn., graduating from the latter in 1890. His first charge was at Elgin, Ill., where he remained two years. Subsequently he served eight years at Waterford, Wis., and six years in Adams, Minn. He has been in Mabel about six years. Rev. Rasmussen married Inger, daughter of S. Peterson, and their children are as follows: Rudolph (deceased), Lovina, Ruth, Rudolph, Mattie, Esther, Elma, Agnes, Irene and William (deceased).

**Rev. Gerhard Rasmussen, A. M.**, pastor of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Harmony, was born in Kendall county, Illinois, January 26, 1857, son of Rev. P. A. and Ragnhild Rasmussen. The father, the Rev. P. A. Rasmussen, was born in Stavanger, Norway, and came to America in 1850. He first went to Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois, and there established a church, and conducted a large and prosperous parish for forty-three

years. He died August 15, 1898, the community losing in his death one of its most beloved characters and distinguished and useful citizens. Under the care of this devout man and a pious mother, and surrounded with all the best influence of a Christian home, the boy, who is now the Rev. Gerhard Rasmussen, was reared. He attended the public schools of Libson, and later had the advantages of the courses offered by Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, and the Capital University at Columbus, Ohio. His theological course was completed at Christiania, Norway. He was ordained in the year 1883 by Right Rev. C. H. L. Schuette, D. D., Columbus, Ohio, and took his first pastorate at Clinton, Wis., serving there seven years. Then he served at Madison, Wis., four years and at Minneapolis, Minn., nine years. Eight years ago he took charge of his present parish at Harmony. The Rev. Rasmussen married Francisca Lehman, a native of Ohio, daughter of William F. Lehman, a native of Germany. Her father came to the United States with his parents when he was but five years of age. Upon reaching manhood he became active and prominent in educational affairs, and for a number of years had the distinguished honor of being president of Capital University, at Columbus, Ohio. The Rev. and Mrs. Rasmussen have an adopted daughter, Otelia. Rev. Rasmussen has three brothers in the ministry: W. A. Rasmussen, Mabel, Minn.; H. E. Rasmussen, Lamsboro, Minn.; and H. J. Rasmussen, Winona, Minn.

**Hans Valder**, now deceased, who founded the village of Newburg, was born in Stavanger, Norway, October 18, 1813, and lived with his parents on the farm in Norway, until he was married to Bertha Gulhong, November 22, 1835. In 1837, they came to America, locating first in Michigan, and then in La Salle county, Illinois. In the latter place the wife died, June 9, 1844, leaving four children, of whom two, Edwin and Helen are living. April 10, 1845, Mr. Valder married Betsey Ager and this union was blessed with nine children of whom six are living. They are: Betsey, Jonas, Charles, Martha, Anna and Sarah. In the spring of 1853, Mr. Valder came with a small colony and his family, and located on the present site of Newburg village, as noted elsewhere. Betsey Ager Valder died in 1860. December 15, 1861, Mr. Valder married Ellen Olson and to this union four children were born. Of these, two, Celia and Matilda are still living. Mrs. Valder makes her home in Newburg township. Mr. Valder was the first merchant and first hotel keeper in Newburg village, and served his town in many capacities, being the one who executed the \$12,000 railroad bonds voted by his township. He was also in the legislature one term. He died January 28, 1901, in his eighty-eighth year, honored and beloved by all who knew him.

**Jacob Larson**, the pioneer, was born near Stavanger, Norway, and came to America in 1847, locating in La Salle county, Illinois, where he was married shortly afterward to Sophia (Faa) Olson. In 1854, with several of their children, they came to Newburg township, this county, bought government land in section three, and there carried on general farming until 1881, when Mr. Larson retired from active life, and moved to Mabel, where he died March 1, 1900. His wife died August 16, 1902. It is interesting to note that the log cabin originally built by Mr. Larson was burned on the day of his burial, March 5, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Larson were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living. They are: Mrs. Martha Arneson, of Lenora; Ole J., of Mabel; Mrs. T. N. Johnson, of Newburg township; Lewis J., living on the old homestead; Caroline, deceased; Josephine, now Mrs. J. N. Johnson, of Mabel; Mrs. Sophia Swenson, living in Mabel; and Charles, living in Newburg.

**Albert Jones**, now residing in the village of Mabel, in which village he was the first merchant, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, May 7, 1840, son of Lemuel Jones, a native of Virginia, and Mary A. Walker, his wife, a native of Maryland. The father moved to Ohio, at an early date and became a merchant. In 1856, the family, consisting at that time of father, mother, and five children, came west to Minnesota, and settled in section thirty-one, Newburg township, this county, where they lived for some years, the farm consisting of 240 acres in Newburg township and 140 in Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1864 the parents sold this farm, and moved to Hesper, Iowa, where they carried on general farming the remainder of their days. The subject of this sketch remained on the home farm until 1859, and then went to Chicago, and entered the employ of Richards, Crumbaugh & Shaw, remaining with them three years. While he was home on a visit, he and J. E. Pike received an offer from William Cook to conduct a store for him in Hesper. This offer they accepted. After a period of three years, Mr. Pike and Mr. Jones bought out Mr. Cook and continued in business four years. Then Mr. Jones bought out his partner's interest and continued the business alone for a while. Subsequently his brother, D. P. Jones became his partner, and they continued in business some ten years. In 1878 they came to what is now Mabel, bought the first lot in the village and put up a store which they conducted some seven years. Subsequently Mr. Jones was out of business two or three years, and then purchased a furniture store from a Mr. Evensen, which he conducted a year, after which he sold out and purchased the hardware stock of O. J. Larson, conducting this establishment three years. Then he consolidated with W. N. Gil-



LEWIS J. LARSON'S RESIDENCE

more, and this partnership continued some five or six years. Afterward Mr. Jones bought the drug business of G. C. Hellikson, and was that same year, 1898, appointed postmaster. He conducted the store and postoffice until 1906, when he retired, his son succeeding him in the store and in the postoffice. Mr. Jones was president of the first village council of Mabel, and was a member of the school board for many years. He married Celia W., the daughter of Rev. R. R. Wood, a pioneer Methodist preacher of Black River Falls, Wis., who is said to have preached the first sermon at La Crosse, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of four children. Marion is now Mrs. Frederick Collins, of Caledonia. D. W., who succeeded his father in business, married Mary Casey, of St. Paul. Grace is the wife of A. L. Tollefson. Harold married Bessie Weiss, and is in the drug business in Wisconsin.

**E. C. Erickson**, of the firm of Beacon & Erickson, general merchants of Mabel, was born in Haug, Tyristranden, Ringeriget, Norway, June 14, 1849, son of Christopher, who brought the family to America in 1861, and settled in Preble township, this county. E. C. was reared on the home farm, and received his schooling in the log schoolhouse in district ten. When he reached the years of manhood, he purchased a farm, but soon afterward disposed of this and acquired a place in section thirty-six, Preble township. Here he farmed for ten or twelve years. In 1889, he moved to Mabel, and purchased an interest in the firm which is now conducted under the name of Beacon and Erickson. The store enjoys a large trade, and has won an enviable reputation for good goods, honest prices and courteous treatment to customers. In addition to his interest in the store, Mr. Erickson owns his farm in Preble township, which he rents. The subject of this sketch married for his first wife, Annie Gilbertson, by whom he had five children. Christopher is a merchant of Mabel. Gertine A., who graduated from the Red Wing Ladies' Seminary, is at home. Mr. Erickson's first wife died March 16, 1888. The present Mrs. Erickson was Sarah Onstad, a resident of Houston county. The family worships at the Lutheran church, at Mabel.

**Lewis J. Larson**, a modern farmer of Newburg township, is a native born son of the town, having first seen the light of day in section three, November 30, 1856, son of Jacob and Sophia (Olson Faa) Larson, the pioneers. He attended school in district eleven and he grew to manhood gradually assumed the duties an managing the home farm. At the time of his father's death in 1900, the old home was burned, and a year later the subject of this sketch erected a fine brick residence of eleven rooms, equipped



with a bath, and many modern conveniences. The barn was built in 1863. The other buildings are well in keeping with the house and barn, and the grounds around the home have the appearance of a beautiful park, surrounded with picturesque hedges. The farm is well cultivated, and well equipped with implements and machinery. It has a fine orchard of 1,000 trees, which were set by Mr. Larson and the whole place speaks of prosperity, progressiveness and industry. In young manhood Mr. Larson married Anna Anderson, who died in 1896 leaving two children, Clara and Arnold. The present Mrs. Larson was Bertha, the daughter of Soren Aanenson, a native of Preble, this county. The family are members of the Schei United Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Larson is vice-president of the State Bank of Mabel, is stockholder and director in the Mabel Elevator Co., and a stockholder in the Mabel Creamery. He is a Republican, and has served as supervisor on the town board and as a member of the school board in his district for several years.

Charles W. Cady, M. D., of Mabel, has been in active practice in this locality for some thirty-five years, and has built up a large practice. He was born in Saratoga county, New York, September 17, 1846, son of Edgar and Emma A. (Edwards) Cady, the former of whom was a Baptist clergyman, sent to Minnesota by the American Board of Missions. Charles W. obtained his early education in Owatonna, where his father, after retiring from the ministry, carried on a farm. Thus equipped with a good common school training, he entered the University of Chicago. Later he attended the Bennett Medical College, and graduated in 1877. After practicing in Blooming Prairie for a year he went to Burr Oak, and there practiced fifteen years. In 1892 he came to the village of Mabel where he is still in practice. Mrs. Cady was Mary Hiscock, a native of Michigan. By a former marriage, Dr. Cady has two children, Charles and Helen. Charles lives in Mabel. Helen is the wife of Elmer Stroud, and they have two children, Viola and Hazel. Dr. Cady is a member of the Houston-Fillmore County Medical Society and of the American and National Mutual Association.

Erasmus M. Adams, now deceased, was a native of Erie county, New York, born September 30, 1834, his father, whose name was also Erasmus, being a member of the famous Adams family of Massachusetts. The subject of this sketch came West in 1855 and spent some six months in visiting various points in Wisconsin and Iowa, afterward returning to his home in the East. In 1865 he married Sarah Adams, and three years later, after selling his farm in the East, he came to Fillmore county,



ERASMUS M. ADAMS



J. K. STROUD AND FAMILY

and spent three months in Rushford looking over the country. In January, 1869, he came to Newburg township, and purchased a farm in section six. On this was a log cabin, in which the family lived until 1881, when Mr. Adams erected a frame house which still stands on the place. He carried on general farming the rest of his days, became a substantial and honored citizen, and died January 20, 1903. His wife died June 25, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Adams were the parents of four children: Ella C., at home; Ada M.; S. Ray, who died June 10, 1886, and Roy C., who is a banker in Manfred, N. D. Ada M. was married October 1, 1893, to Frank M. Tripp, son of Job and Caroline (Shaw) Tripp, born in Jackson County, Michigan, March 9, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Tripp are the parents of two sons, Fred E., born May 22, 1895, and Loren R., born October 17, 1896; both at home. Mr. Tripp occupies the old Adams farm, which comprises 160 acres of land, all under cultivation. Mr. Tripp for eleven years, from 1882 to 1893, was in Dakota, and came to Fillmore county in the spring of 1893.

J. K. Stroud, a retired resident of Mabel and an honored veteran of the Sioux Indian campaign of 1862, in which he served while a mere youth, was born in Lafayette, Tippecanoe county, Indiana, January 20, 1846, son of Montgomery and Sarah (Tharp) Stroud, natives of South Carolina.

Montgomery Stroud came to Indiana in the latter part of the thirties, and there married. After a stay of a few years there, the family came to Newburg township, this county, arriving in October, 1855, and preëmpting land in section twenty-seven, thirty acres of the original claim being now in the village of Mabel. Montgomery Stroud contracted a cold while going to the land office in Brownsville after preëmption papers, and died in November, 1855. The sons then went to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and rented a farm, where they remained three years. Their mother married Jonah Cadwaller, and the family moved to section twenty-nine, Newburg township. There they remained a few years, and then purchased a farm in section thirty-four, where the mother died, March 28, 1904.

At the age of sixteen, J. K. took a trip to Indiana, and remained there three months. Upon his return he enlisted in Capt. N. P. Colburn's company of the Minnesota Rangers, and went to protect the southern Minnesota frontier. Forty-five days later he returned, and worked for the various farmers until about twenty years of age, when he started farming on his own account. March 4, 1866, he married Caroline Bacon, born at Deerfield, N. Y., March 28, 1847, daughter of Leonard Bacon. She obtained her early education in Deerfield, Oneida

county, New York, took her examination for a teacher at Lenora, Fillmore county, Minnesota, and taught in district five in Newburg township, this county, two terms. After his marriage, Mr. Stroud operated a tin shop in Hesper, Iowa, for two years, after which he returned to Newburg and farmed a year in section twenty-seven, thence going to Clay county, Iowa, and farming three years. Later he again returned to Newburg and farmed three years. Subsequently the family moved to a farm on sections twenty-six and thirty-five, which Mr. Stroud finally purchased. This farm he developed and improved, and here he carried on general farming operations until 1909, when he moved to the village of Mabel, where he is now living a retired life. A staunch Republican in politics, Mr. Stroud was supervisor of Newburg township at one time, and has served on the school board of his district several years. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company, of Mabel. Mr. and Mrs. Stroud are the parents of seven children: Elmer, Luella, Leonard, Herbert, Roy James, Arthur and Marian. Elmer married May Cady. They live in Mabel and have two children, Viola and Hazel. Luella married Alfred Miner. They live near Mabel and have one son, Fred. Leonard married Ida Jacobson, and they have four sons, Harold, Floyd, Leonard and Lowell. They live at Braham, Isanti county, Minnesota. Herbert married for his first wife, Angie Renner, who died leaving one daughter, Helen. His present wife is Amanda Longfellow, and they have one son, Dudley. They live in North Dakota. Roy lives on the home farm in Newburg township. He married Flora Vought, and they have four children: Marjorie, Donald, Audrey and Dorothy. Arthur is a Methodist clergyman, now stationed at Ipswich, Mass. He married Mildred Andrews, and they have one son, Arthur, Jr. Marian married Walter Gilmore. They reside at Dexter, Minn., and have three children: Daryl, Eleanor and Howard. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

John Jacobson Einong, the pioneer, son of Jacob and Anne Einong, was born in Telemarken, Norway, December 29, 1830, and came to America with his parents in 1842, locating in Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin, where his father died in 1843. His mother died while crossing the ocean. John was thus thrown on his own resources. He engaged in farm work. During his sojourn in Muskego the first Norwegian Lutheran church in America, known as the old Muskego church, was built. In this church both he and his wife were confirmed. This historic old edifice has been removed from Muskego and now stands on the grounds of the United Church Seminary, at St. Anthony Park,

Minn., between St. Paul and Minneapolis. In 1853 John Jacobson moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and in 1854 came to this county and located in section three, Canton, where he continued to live until 1894, when he and his good wife moved to the village of Harmony, where he died January 7, 1907. His widow now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Tollef Sanderson. The subject of this sketch was married, September 3, 1853, to Anne Bergan, born in Telemarken, Norway, May 10, 1834, daughter of Svennung and Birgit Bergan, who brought her to America in 1847, locating in Muskego, Wis., where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson were the parents of seven children: Ann Sophia, born July 25, 1855, is now Mrs. Tollef Sanderson, of Harmony; James S., born December 15, 1857, died April 7, 1911; William J., born March 4, 1860, is now a progressive farmer and dairyman of Harmony; Edmund H., born August 3, 1864, is an enterprising farmer on the old homestead in Canton township; John M., born February 17, 1867, died April 3, 1867; John M., born April 4, 1868, died July 18, 1869; John E., born May 21, 1870, died July 2, 1870.

Bernt Jacobson, only son of John and Bertha Jacobson, was born near Newburg, February 17, 1867, and has grown up and always lived on the old homestead, where he is still to be found engaged in agricultural pursuits, and is at all times making diligent research for improvement along lines of his chosen work. At the age of seventeen Mr. Jacobson commenced teaching school, and kept at this work for about eight years, in the meantime having prepared himself as teacher by studying at Decorah, Iowa, also two years at the Winona Normal School. Finding farming more to his liking, he quit teaching, but has always taken an active interest in school matters, having served his school district as clerk for fourteen years. Mr. Jacobson is a great reader and is well posted on the social, economical and political problems of our day, and has a fund of historical knowledge such as is possessed by few. On March 4, 1896, Mr. Jacobson was married to Melia Kingstad, a daughter of Nels Kingstad, one of the pioneers of Preble township. Six children have been born to them—three boys and three girls—as follows: Nora Sylvia, born October 2, 1896; Jesse Bryan, born December 2, 1897; May Sophia, born December 4, 1899; Eva Francis, born July 20, 1902; Merle Palmer, born August 10, 1904, and Howard Bernt, born January 23, 1909; all of whom are living and staying at home with their parents. Mr. Jacobson has held a number of positions of honor and trust, among others those of assessor and chairman of supervisors, for six years, and has been secretary and kept the church records of his church for the last seventeen years,

for which work he is well qualified, being a rapid and expert penman—having few equals along this line. Mr. Jacobson has a fine farm, well fenced and stocked, with substantial and commodious buildings, well sheltered with evergreens and other planted trees, giving the place a beautiful and home-like appearance.

**John Jacobson**, now deceased, an honored veteran of the Civil War and of the Indian campaign, was born near Stavanger, Norway, April 5, 1833, and came to America when a youth of about nineteen years, locating in La Salle county, Illinois, where he remained five or six years. About this time a large number of settlers, being dissatisfied with conditions in Illinois, emigrated to Fillmore county, where they found conditions more to their liking, the subject of this sketch being among the number. After working around as farm laborer for some years, he enlisted, in 1862, in the Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until discharged, at the close of the war, at Fort Snelling in August, 1865. In 1863, when the Indians were raiding the white settlements in the state he was ordered out to the vicinity of Munkato and New Ulm to help in putting an end to the Indian insurrection, which was accomplished by the execution of the Sioux Indian murderers at Mankato. In 1866 Mr. Jacobson located on a farm in section four, Newburg township, about one mile north of the village of Newburg, and lived here until June, 1894, when he moved to Mabel, where he resided until his death, December 30, 1910, aged about 78 years. His wife was Bertha S. Peterson, and to them were born seven children—one boy and six girls—all of whom are living.

**John T. Ask**, banker, business man and farmer, was born in Preston township on December 28, 1857, son of Thomas and Carrie (Holt) Ask, natives of Norway. John T., subject of this biography, acquired a good common school education and remained on the home farm, assisting his father until he reached the age of twenty-seven years. Thus equipped with valuable experience and practical knowledge, Mr. Ask started farming on his own responsibility. He bought 225 acres in Newburg township and moved to that farm on November 4, 1887. Here he had since put into practice his ideas of modern farming, and that his efforts have met with success is evidenced by the general air of prosperity about his farm, with its fine dwelling and good out-buildings, broad, well cultivated fields, modern machinery, and everything necessary for the carrying on of up-to-date, scientific farming. One hundred and twenty acres of Mr. Ask's farm, on which stands his home, is located on section thirty-one, New-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN JACOBSON



burg township, while the remaining 105 acres are across the state line in Hesper township, Winneshiek county, Iowa. A greater portion of this land was broken and improved by Mr. Ask, whose untiring energy and industry have made him more and more prosperous each succeeding year. Adding to his possessions from time to time, he now owns 465 acres in this county and a farm of considerable dimensions located near Hettinger, N. D. Aside from his farming interest, Mr. Ask is interested in various banks, being president of the State Line Bank at Prosper and one of its organizers, as well as president of the Bank of Hettinger, N. D. He is also a stockholder and treasurer of the Prosper Lumber Yards, stockholder in the Mabel Creamery and in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Mabel. He has long been a staunch member of the Republican party and has served as member of the school board, is its present treasurer, and has held these offices for many years. On February 19, 1886, he was united in marriage with Isabelle Goldberg, daughter of Austin Goldberg. Mrs. Isabelle (Goldberg) Ask was born August 5, 1853, in Alamakee county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Ask have been born five children, who are a credit and comfort to their parents. Henry is a banker and business man at Hettinger, N. D.; Calma, Arnold and Leonard are at home, and Effie is a stenographer, occupying a position at Hettinger, N. D. The family attend the Norwegian Lutheran church, being highly esteemed members of that body.

George Rank, a prosperous and highly esteemed citizen of Newburg township, was born on section eleven, where he still resides, October 9, 1860, son of John and Christina (Krause) Rank, early settlers in the township. Mr. Rank was well fortified for meeting and overcoming difficulties in life with a good common school education, supplemented with valuable experience acquired while working on the home farm with his father. He now owns his father's original place of 160 acres, which are well cultivated, and his farm is equipped with modern machinery. The fine dwelling in which he and his family live is comfortable and the many trees, shrubs and flowers which ornament the grounds give his place the appearance of a fine country estate. Together with general farming industries, Mr. Rank also engages in stock raising. He is affiliated with the Republican party and has ever taken an active interest in all movements which have tended toward improving conditions in both his township and county. On April 4, 1881, Geneva Luttmann became his wife, and to them were born three children, of whom Elizabeth Geneva is the only one living. She has been given all the advantages of a thorough schooling, attending the district school near

home in childhood, later entering high school in Mabel, and completing her studies with a two years' course in the Ladies' Lutheran Seminary, at Red Wing. Herbert A. died when but six years of age, having contracted diphtheria in La Crosse. Christina Virginia died in infancy. Mr. Rank and his family are members of the Methodist church. Mrs. Geneva (Luttman) Rank was born September 9, 1861, at Neenah, Wis., daughter of Charles G. and Jane E. (Scott) Luttman. With her parents she came to Houston county and located at Riceford in 1875, where her father bought and operated a mill, in which, two weeks after his becoming its owner, he was caught by the machinery and lost his right arm. Recovering to a certain extent from this injury, he continued in the milling business until 1882, during which year he returned to Wisconsin and was employed in an elevator at Rosendale. Later returning to his old home at Neenah, he secured employment in the Pattern Paper Mills, in which concern he became bookkeeper, and retained that position until his death, which occurred during the fall of 1897. His widow survives him in Neenah.

**John Rank**, an early settler of Newburg township, now living in La Crosse, Wis., was born in Germany nearly ninety years ago and came to America in the early fifties, locating in Onalaska, Wis., where he lived until about 1856, when he came to Newburg township and purchased a place in section eleven, on which he erected a frame house. Then he bought the Hinkley farm in section twelve, where he lived until he purchased a farm in Houston, Houston county, Minnesota, where he made his home until moving to La Crosse, where he now lives in retirement. At one time, while living in Houston county, Mr. Rank conducted a general store in Riceford. At the same time he owned over 1,100 acres of fine farm land. His wife, Christina Krause Rank, is eighty-six years old. To them were born eight children: John, Jr., Peter H., William, George, Minnie, Edward, Charles and Emma.

**John P. Dahl**, a merchant of Mabel, was born in Trondhjem, Norway, May 15, 1844, and with his wife came to America in 1870. After living a few months in Chicago, they came to Riceford, Houston county, this state, and here Mr. Dahl engaged in the shoe-making business. In 1881 he came with his family to Mabel, where he continued in the same business, adding in time a stock of ready-made shoes, and still later a stock of harness and other similar goods. This business has steadily increased. The son, Ole P., is a partner, Mr. Dahl's health not having been of the best for the past few years. The store has

a modern stock of footwear and horse furnishings, and is well equipped for repairing. Mr. and Mrs. John P. Dahl were the parents of five children: Anna G., died in Chicago as an infant; another Anna G., wife of Fred Bacon, died at Mabel; Pittrena, is now Mrs. S. A. Hammerstrom, of Moline, Ill.; Josephine, is now Mrs. Ole Burreson, of Mabel; Ole P., of Mabel, is his father's partner. Peter Erlandson, father of John P. Dahl, was born in Gaarden, Shelle, Dovre, Prestejeld, Gulbrandsdalen, near Trondhjem. The mother was Joren Olson, born at Lesha, Prestejeld, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway. They emigrated to Langston, Nedrestardalen, Trondhjem, Norge.

**Ole P. Dahl**, a partner of his father, John P. Dahl, in the shoe and harness business in Mabel, was born in Riceford, Minn., June 13, 1875, and attended the "Red" schoolhouse in Newburg township. After completing his studies there, he entered his father's store. In the winter of 1894-95 he took a course at the business college at LaCrosse, Wis., being later received as a partner. He is a substantial young man, of good business ability and of progressive spirit. Mr. Dahl married Sena Anderson, of Preston, daughter of Chris Anderson, and this union has been blessed with three children: Clarissa F., James Clifford and Helen. Mr. Dahl is a Republican and served as alderman for two years. The family faith is that of the United Lutheran church of Mabel.

**Jonas Valder** is the son of Hans Valder and Betsy Ager Valder, his wife. He was reared in the village of Newburg, attended the district schools, and later took courses at the Minnesota State Normal School in Winona. After this he taught school in Minnesota and Nebraska for six years. His more recent years have been spent in mercantile work and in bookkeeping.

**Matthew Gagen**, and his brother James, came to America at an early age from Ireland, and located in Ohio, where Matthew worked in the coal mines several years. Then he came to Mineral Point, Wis., and remained there a time, finally exchanging his land for what is now the Gagen farm in section eleven, Newburg township, this county. Mr. Gagen, and his wife, who was Mary O'Brien, lived in Newburg a number of years and labored and prospered. He died in Newburg township, in September 15, 1900, and she is still living at Caledonia at the age of seventy-three years. They were the parents of seventeen children, of whom twelve are living. They are: Daniel, of Frost, Minn.; Elizabeth, wife of Frank Stabrook; James; Thomas, living in Devil's Lake, N. D.; Bernard, twin brother of Thomas, living at Minot, N. D.;

John; Edward; Mary, wife of Fred Leak; Matthew; Kate, wife of Frank Rice, of South Dakota; Agnes, wife of Albert Allen; and Agustive, of Montana.

**John Gagen**, a successful farmer of Newburg township, was born on section eleven, where he still resides, August 10, 1867, son of Matthew and Mary (O'Brien) Gagen, and has always devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, now devoting his time to general farming and the raising of thoroughbred stock. He has a fine place of 240 acres, all under cultivation, and is one of the hard working, industrious and substantial men of the community. He married Bridget Kelley, January 15, 1901, a native of Iowa, and to this union were born three children, Mary C. C., Annistasia and Francis M., died January 14, 1906. Mrs. Gagen died January 26, 1905. Mr. Gagen is an independent voter and has been a director of the school board for many years. He is a stockholder in the Mabel Creamery and the elevator at Mabel. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

**Dr. D. A. Haines**, a successful dentist, who has been an active factor in the life and progress of the village of Mabel for the past fifteen years, was born in Hesper, Iowa, October 6, 1866, son of Bennett and Mary (Street) Haines, the former of whom came from Ohio in 1849 or 1850, and took land near Hesper, Iowa, where they remained until 1900, when they removed to Hesper, N. D., where they now live. The subject of this sketch attended the Hesper school and lived the life of the average farm boy of his day and generation. He prepared for college at Breckenridge Institute, at Decorah, Iowa, and then taught school three years at Spring Grove, Minn. Although he has not made a life-work of teaching, the excellence of his tuition is still remembered by the younger generation in that place. After this period of teaching he entered the deservedly renowned dental department of the University of Iowa, and during his senior year was tendered and accepted the position of assistant demonstrator in that department. Since that time he has kept well abreast of the modern trend of his profession by reading, observation and private study. After graduation he opened an office in Muskegon, Mich., and remained there until 1896. In that year he came to Mabel, where he has a well-equipped office, and where he enjoys the confidence and respect of the people both as a man and as a practitioner. Fraternally Dr. Haines has allied himself with Hesper Camp, No. 4561 M. W. A., at Hesper, Iowa, Mabel Lodge I. O. O. F., No. 231 and Minnesota State Dental Society. In business he was president of the Mabel Telephone Company for several years, and is a stockholder in the Mabel Grain & Stock Com-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN GAGEN  
 MRS. MATTHEW GAGEN— CHILDREN OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN GAGEN

pany. As a public citizen he is president of the Mabel Opera House Company, and secretary of the Mabel Commercial Club. As a man of affairs he served on the village council a number of years, was mayor five years, and was president of the board of education five years. Dr. Haines was married September 30, 1891, to Nettie Newcomer, a native of Minnesota, and they have two children, Zola N. and Howard N., both students of the Mabel high school.

**Charles W. Eastman**, merchant at Newburg village, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, May 7, 1848, son of Austin and Ann Hanson (Hova) Eastman.

The father, Austin, was born in Norway and came to America in 1839 as a boy and lived about thirteen years in Illinois. Then in 1852 he located near Hesper, in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and lived there two years. In 1854 he came to Canton township, this county, and took land in section fourteen, where he built a log house. Later he purchased land in sections eleven and fourteen. Austin Eastman died October 22, 1856, at the age of thirty-nine years. The family continued to live on the farm until 1878 when the mother and son, Joseph A., went to Lake county, S. D., and in 1901 moved to Big Lake, Minn., where the mother died January 26, 1909 at the age of ninety-four years.

Charles W. attended the Fillmore county schools and at one time was the pupil of William Willford. As a young man he clerked for Gabriel Gabrielson and D. J. Shuburn, and later for K. K. Lerol. In 1901 he purchased the store where he had previously been employed, and became sole owner and proprietor until March 14, 1907 when he formed a partnership with F. A. Johnson, his son-in-law. They now conduct the business which dates back to 1854, and in the village which is one of the historic points of the county. Mr. Eastman married Edna, the daughter of James and Susan (Willford) Graham, and they have three children: James A., living in Mabel; Anna A., wife of T. A. Johnson; and George H., at home. Mr. Eastman and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Lenora. Mr. Eastman is one of the stockholders in the State Bank of Mabel.

**James M. Graham** was born in Kentucky, December 19, 1816, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Graham. James M. Graham and his wife, Susan Willford, who was a sister of Charles B. Willford (the pioneer) came to Fillmore county in 1854 and located in Canton township, where Mr. Graham purchased government land. For the first two weeks, while building a log cabin they lived in the Lenora schoolhouse. They later built the second log house and still later a frame dwelling. In the early day Mr. Graham

served one year in the legislature and held several of the town offices of minor importance. He added to his original purchase, until at the time of his death he had 320 acres. He died March 31, 1866. Mrs. Graham died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Eastman at Newburg village, April 8, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Graham were the parents of eight children. Catherine and Campbell W., (deceased); George W., of Woonsocket, S. D.; Margaret Ann, now Mrs. W. R. Haskin, of Wells, Minn.; John W., of Wells; Elmer Y., of Rock county, Minnesota; Edna, now Mrs. Charles Eastman, of Newburg; and Granville of Wells, Minn.

**Alanson Loomis**, one of the first settlers of Fillmore county, is believed to have been born in Lansing, Thompsons county, New York. He spent his youth in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and after his marriage went to Cattaraugus county, New York, where he farmed for a time. About 1847 he went to Illinois, and rented a farm near Rockford. Then he brought his family to Frankville, Winneshiek county, Iowa, and took government land. In the early part of 1853 he came to Newburg township, and here lived a number of years. Later he moved to Burr Oak, Iowa, where he and his wife ended their days. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Betsey Bush, reared a goodly family and gave three stalwart sons to the Union cause. Richard was killed at Lawrence raid. Henry was killed at Atlanta. Frank died of illness contracted in the army.

**Silas C. Brace**, Mabel, manager of the Mabel Lumber Yards, since 1882, and resident of that village since 1880, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, August 25, 1851, son of Mark and Rosalinda (Lamb) Brace.

Mark Brace was born in New York state and came west in 1851, locating in Burr Oak, Iowa. One year later he sent for his wife and son Silas. He carried on farming for a time after which the family returned to New York state where he died in December, 1859. In 1865 the widow married William Loomis, and lived in Newburg until her death in 1874.

Silas C. received his earliest education in Burr Oak, making notable progress under the tuition of E. W. Southwick, afterward a prominent merchant of Wells, Minn. He went back to New York with his family and returned west with her in 1865, and until 1872 attended school winters and worked summers. That year, he started teaching in the Trexler district, in Canton. He later taught in districts six and 150 in Newburg township, completing his period of teaching in 1882. In the meantime, July 6, 1873, he married Ella M. Dibble, and moved to Martin county, this state for a while, returning soon however, and resumed his



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM LOOMIS



teaching. In 1882, he assumed the duties of his present position. Mr. Brace has been a member of Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M. for a number of years, and is also affiliated with other societies and organizations. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Brace has been blessed with two sons, George W. and Clayton E. George W. married Bertha Harkness, and they live in Cass county, this state. Clayton E. is county attorney of Divide county, North Dakota. He married Minnie Redo and they have two children, Ella M. and Clayton. Mrs. Silas C. Brace was the daughter of George W. and Maria (Welch) Dibble, natives of New York state.

William Loomis, the oldest resident of the township of Newburg, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, April 18, 1824. son of Alanson and Betsey (Bush) Loomis, and grandson of Richard Loomis, the latter of whom came from Canada to the United States, and founded the American branch of the family. William came to Newburg in the fall of 1853 and preëmpted 160 acres in what is now section twenty-six, a part of his preëmption now embracing the village of Mabel. Upon his arrival here, he boarded with John Monroe and Milton Sherburn for several years. After this he erected a log house in which he lived for several years. About 1870 he erected a frame house in which he still resides. He is a remarkable man for his years, and has many interesting stories to relate of those far distant years, when he was among those who paved the way for the modern development of the county. He has always been a public spirited man, and when the railroad came through, donated a right-of-way forty feet wide across the end of his farm. In 1857 Mr. Loomis married Catherine Monroe. In 1865 he married Mrs. Rosalinda Brace, who died in November, 1874. His present wife was Mrs. Catherine Maria McCreery, nee Nelson, who came to Racine county, Wisconsin, from New Jersey, where she was born February 28, 1837. Mrs. Loomis relates that in 1854 she taught school in Canton township, in the vicinity of what is now the village of Prosper. This school was known as the Nichols school from the fact that Albert Nichols promoted it and paid the salary of the teacher. The sessions were held in a store kept by a man whose name was Koontz.

G. W. Brace, a grandson of William Loomis, lives in Backus, Cass county, Minnesota. He was born in Martin county, Minnesota, was brought to Fillmore county by his parents at the age of six weeks, grew to manhood, and followed farming in and around Newburg township until 1911, when he moved to his present home. He married Bertha Harkness, daughter of Edwin Harkness.

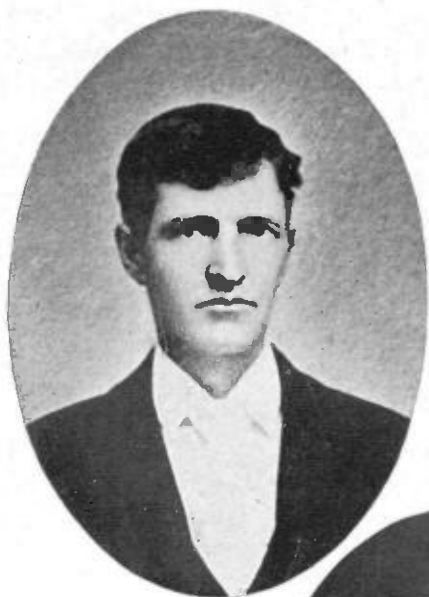
By her former marriage to Isaac D. Manning, Mrs. William Loomis has a son, Charles A., who lives at Mantorville, Minn. He married for his first wife, Ella Seeman who left one daughter, Gladys, now living with her grandparents in Mabel. For his second wife, Charles Manning married Carrie Brode, and they have one daughter, Mabel.

Edmund Bell, now deceased, one of the founders of Bellville, in Newburg township, and a prominent territorial pioneer, was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1821.

John Bell, his father, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in early life went to Belfast Ireland, and came to America at the age of twenty-one years, being soon afterward married to Betsey Palmer, in New Jersey. They moved to Pennsylvania, and there ended their days in the early fifties.

Edmund Bell left home at the age of fourteen, and was employed for some seven years on the canal between Pittsburg and Philadelphia. Later he worked in an iron foundry, and was finally engaged in buying horses and mules in Ohio, and shipping them to his native state. He was married July 27, 1848, to Mary Allen, and in 1853 they came west locating in section twenty-six, Newburg township, this county. Here Edmund established a store, which was the beginning of Bellville. A postoffice was established with Edmund Bell as postmaster, being on the stage route from Brownsville to Elliot. Mr. Bell was also a prominent figure in having the territorial legislature establish a territorial road from Brownsville through Bellville, westward to Albert Lea. Edmund Bell led a useful life, held a number of offices, assisted in the upbuilding of the town and county, and lived to see his hopes realized. He died July 13, 1904, at a venerable old age, and his memory will ever be cherished in the community in which he worked. His wife is living with her son, James, and has reached the good old age of eighty-three years. In the Bell family were nine children, of whom seven are living: John, Frances, Charles, Walter, James, Harvey and Edmund. Frances married James Bemis and they live in Arkansas. James lives in Oklahoma. Walter is in Montana. Harvey is in California and Edmund is in Idaho.

Lars C. Tarvestad, a pioneer, was born in Norway, December 29, 1830, and came to America in 1850, locating in Illinois, where he was married in 1851 to Malinda Johnson. After living in Illinois a year after their marriage, they came to Iowa, and after about a year there to Minnesota, settling in Fillmore county. In 1866, Mr. Tarvestad purchased 240 acres of land in section twenty-four, Canton township, where he carried on general farming, mak-



GEORGE HELLIKSON AND FAMILY

ing a specialty of raising fine stock. In 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Tarvestad moved to Mabel, where Mrs. Tarvestad died, April 30, 1899. Mr. Tarvestad made two trips to Norway in search of health, and on his second trip died in Hougursund, that country, September 1, 1901.

They were the parents of nine children: Helen, wife of Ole Tollefson, of Mabel; Christ, of Henderson, Minn.; John, of Album, Iowa; Christina, now Mrs. Johnson, of Stoughton, Wis.; Jacob, of Grinnell, Iowa; Annie, now Mrs. George Helliison, of Mabel; Belle, now Mrs. Perry, of Decorah, Iowa; Lewis, who was murdered in a hotel at Minot, S. D.; and one who died in infancy.

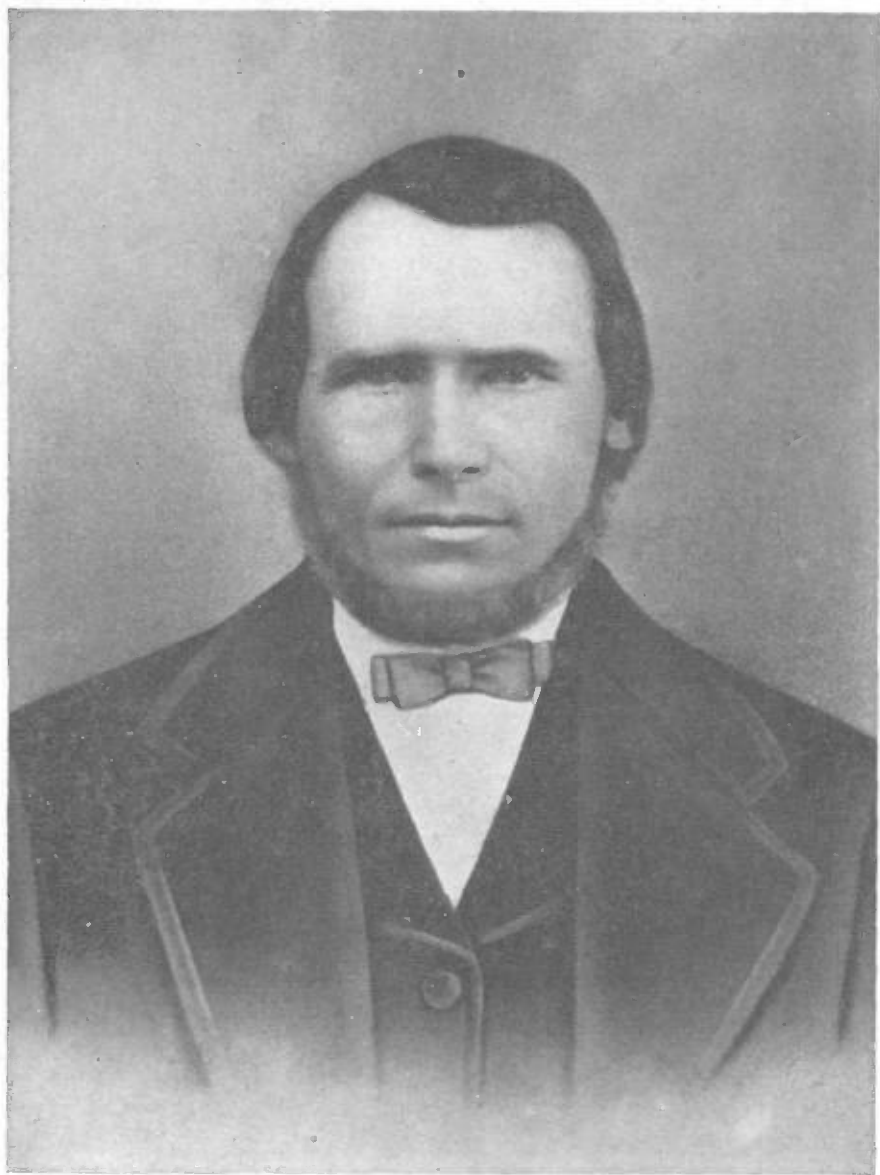
George Helliison, now deceased, was one of the well known men of Mabel for many years. He was born in Canton township, December 14, 1862, son of Christopher and Betsy (Tollefson) Helliison, and was reared on the home farm. As a youth he supplemented his district school training with courses in the Breckenridge Institute, at Decorah, Iowa, and on the completion of his studies, came to Mabel and entered the employ of Thomas McMichael in the elevator business. Several years later he purchased a drug business from Dr. Edward Thompson, and continued to operate this store for four years, then sold to Albert Jones on account of ill health, and from that time until his death July 26, 1904, was engaged in selling local and Dakota real estate. From December, 1892, until the close of 1898 he served the village of Mabel as postmaster. By his union with Anne, the daughter of Lars C. Tarvestad, he had three children: Violet B., January 26, 1888; Hazel L., June 1, 1901; and George C., December 30, 1904, all living at home. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and votes with the Republican party.

George T. Hegland, a retired farmer and estimable citizen of Mabel, was born near Stavanger, Norway, December 23, 1839, and at the age of twenty years in 1859, came to America with his parents, settling with them in Canton township, this county. He assisted his parents with the farm work until his marriage March 16, 1862 with Merandy Tollefson, daughter of Lars and Mary Tollefson, natives of Norway. After his marriage, he worked his father's farm on shares for four years, and then purchased a farm of 120 acres in section sixteen, Newburg township, where he successfully carried on farming operations until 1910, when he and his good wife moved to the village of Mabel. Mrs. Hegland, who is a woman of devout character, was born in Norway, January 6, 1842, came to America with her parents when three years of age in 1845, lived with them in Rock county, Wisconsin, near Beloit, and in 1853 came with them to section

eighteen, Newburg township, where she was reared. It was on this farm also that her brother Lars was born, his being one of the earliest births in the county. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hegland has been blessed with five children: Belinda (deceased), Melia, Louise (deceased), Telley Josephine and Alvin. Belinda was born February 15, 1863 and died January 15, 1905. Melia was born February 16, 1868, and lives at home. Louisa was born September 17, 1872 and died September 10, 1873. Telley Josephine was born September 5, 1874, and married Ernest Trimbel. They have three boys, Jerome, Emerson and Vincent. Alvin was born June 10, 1880, and lives at home. He married Jettie May Eddy, and they have had one son, Jiles Lowell, born June 25, 1909, and died May 14, 1910. Mr. Hegland's father was born June 8, 1808, and died February 8, 1889, the mother having preceded him to the grave. Mrs. Hegland's father died in his sixty-sixth year. Her mother was born in 1807 and died May 7, 1891.

**Knudt Wold**, now deceased, was born in Norway, December 21, 1830, and came to America at the age of nineteen years in 1849. He found employment in various places, and was finally able to purchase a farm in Spring Grove, Minn. For this farm he paid \$500, receiving a place with but few acres broken, and upon which there was standing a log cabin. Gradually he improved this place, erected suitable buildings, and carried on general farming until his death, January 1, 1907, at the age of seventy-seven years and one month. He married for his first wife **Christie T. Week** and this union resulted in five children. Of these three are living. They are: **Ole K.**, a merchant of **Mabel**; **Mary**, wife of **Christ Espelund**, of **Miltonville, Iowa**; and **Theodore**, living in **North Dakota**. **Matilda** and **Caroline** are dead. In 1871, **Knudt Wold** married **Bridget Burtness**, and this union resulted in eleven children: **Christina**, now deceased, wife of **Henry Tolleferud**; **Henry**, who is on the old home farm in **Houston county**; **Peter**, of **Houston county**; **Carl**, of **Elba Lake, Grant county, Minnesota**; **Elginus**, of **Canada**; **Rudolph**, of **Canada**; **Oscar**, of **Elba Lake, Grant county, Wisconsin**; **Beatah**, a milliner in **Postville, Iowa**; **Adolph**, who conducts a restaurant at **Mabel, Minn.**; **Rosella**, at home; and **Leonard** who conducts a garage at **Mabel**.

**Bridget Burtness**, now **Mrs. Knudt Wold**, was born in **Halingdahl, Norway**, August 14, 1851, daughter of **Henry** and **Leva Burtness**, who came to America in 1861, bringing her with them. The parents settled first in **Rock county, Wisconsin**, where several sons were living, and later moved to **Spring Grove, Minn.**, where another son was living. The father died at the home



KNUDT WOLD

of a son in Wilmington, Houston county, in 1871. The daughter, Bridget, obtained her early education in Wisconsin, and was confirmed in Spring Grove. Since the death of Mr. Wold, Mrs. Wold has lived in Mabel, where she is surrounded by the love and care of her children.

**Charles Bell**, a prosperous farmer of Newburg township, was born in Belleville on February 16, 1858, son of Edmund and Mary (Allen) Bell, the pioneers. He obtained a good common school education, and has always devoted his life to farming, with the exception of three years which were spent at Washington, Montana, Idaho and Oregon, after which he returned to Newburg, where he operates and owns the home farm, which consists of 360 acres, practically all under cultivation, and here carries on general farming operations. His home is directly across the street from the old homestead. Mr. Bell was married December 11, 1894, to Emma, the daughter of Bradley Randall, who in an early day settled in section twelve, Newburg township. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have one daughter, Geneva.

**Gabriel Gabrielson**, an early merchant of Newburg, now deceased, was born in Norway, September 15, 1825, and lived with his parents until he was fifteen years of age, at which time he went to the city of Stavanger, and became clerk in the mercantile business. In 1854 he came to America and settled in La Salle county, Illinois, where he clerked in a store for a year. In 1855 he came to Newburg township and opened a small store here. He was appointed postmaster, and soon became a prominent man, serving as one of the first officers of the town and being made, in time, a member of the board of county commissioners. He died March 15, 1902. August 16, 1857, he married Isabell, born in La Salle county, Illinois, October 21, 1839, daughter of Austin and Anna Hanson (Hova) Eastman.

**Ole L. Gabrielson**, a successful farmer of Newburg township, was born in section fifteen, this township, April 11, 1879, son of Lars and Inger (Normark) Gabrielson.

Lars Gabrielson was born in Suldahl, Norway, and came to America with his wife in 1862, locating in Newburg township. He worked several years for his brother, Gabriel, and then bought a farm in section fifteen, where he carried on agricultural operations. He first lived in a house of logs, which in 1884 was replaced with a frame dwelling. He prospered with the years, developed his land, erected the necessary barns, and lived a useful life. He died March 28, 1900, and his wife followed him to the grave June 30, 1902.

Ole L. was reared on the home farm, and after obtaining his early education in district 135, attended the Valders Business College at Decorah, Iowa. The home farm, on which he still lives, consists of eighty acres, all in a high degree of cultivation, with excellent buildings and good equipment. He married Emma R., the daughter of Robert and Betsey (Halverson) Rasmus, and they have two children, Beth and Lela R. Mr. Gabrielson is now serving his seventh term as town treasurer.

**Bjoren C. Spande**, now deceased, had an important part in the upbuilding of Newburg village and township in an early day. He was born on the island of Fino, near Stavanger, Norway, December 13, 1827, and came to America in 1856, reaching Preble township, this county, by way of Quebec, Chicago, and Lansing, Iowa. For a time he worked as a carpenter while living at the home of Nels Kingstadt, and in time became the most prominent builder in this vicinity. He erected the Gabriel Gabrielson store, which was the first in Newburg village, and also the Hans Valder Building, which afterward became the first hotel in Newburg village. In an early day, while still working as a carpenter, he moved to Newburg township, and secured land in sections four and five, erecting his log cabin on section four. Later he built a somewhat larger cabin, which did service until 1871, when a frame house was erected. This was burned in 1887 and was replaced the same year. Mr. Spande built still another house in 1893, and there died April 2, 1901. His wife was born December 8, 1832, and passed away January 23, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Spande were the parents of ten children: Elizabeth, Christian, Nels B., Inger, Severn, Albert, Josie; Lina, Inger and Jacob, deceased. Elizabeth married B. J. Watland, and they live in Jackson, Minn. Christian and Nels B. live in Newburg township. Inger lives in Texas. Severn lives in Crosby, N. D. Albert lives in Preble. Josie is the wife of Orlando Henderson, and they live in Crosby, N. D.

**Nels B. Spande**, a well known farmer of Newburg township, was born in the town where he still resides, October 6, 1864, son of Burn C. Spande. He received a good district school education, and with the exception of three and a half years which he spent in North Dakota has devoted his life to farming on the home place. The estate consists of 227 acres of good land, all of which, with the exception of eighty acres, is under cultivation. Mr. Spande is interested in public affairs, has served as town supervisor and is now school treasurer. He and his family attend the United Lutheran church. The subject of this sketch married for his first wife Elizabeth Furland, who died in 1891,



leaving two children, Buren and Albert. Later he married Gertie Jacobson, daughter of John Jacobson, and this union has been blessed with four children: Victor, Burton, George, who died March 4, 1912, and Mildred. Mr. Spande makes a specialty of swine raising for the market. He is one of the trustees of the "Shei" United Lutheran church of Newburg, and votes the Republican ticket.

Walcot N. Gilmore, a pioneer, was born in Ohio, April 18, 1830. When he was ten years of age he came with his parents to Racine, Wis., where he resided until he was twenty-two years old, at which time he started on foot for Lansing, Iowa, with a capital of \$100 in his pocket. Reaching that town he engaged in cutting cordwood. In 1855 he came to Spring Grove, and purchased land near that place in Houston county. In 1859 he sold his tract and settled in Newburg township, where he lived until going to California. He also lived a number of years in Mabel. Mr. Gilmore married three times. In 1858 he married Mahala Rowe, who bore him three children: Addison H., Vernon H., and Mary, all of Fair Oaks, Cal., the two former being fruit farmers. Mrs. Mahala Rowe Gilmore died March 22, 1871. Mr. Gilmore afterward married Lucy Van Dorn, who bore him four children: Norman W.; Oscar, of South Dakota; Anson, of California, and Charles, of Hillsdale, Wyo. Norman W. married Mollie Michaelson, and they have two children: Esther and Garland. Oscar lives in South Dakota. He married Julia Michaelson, and they have two children: Lillie and Cyrus. Charles lives in Wyoming. He married Mae Nash, and has one child. Anson lives in Los Angeles. Mrs. Lucy Van Dorn Gilmore died a number of years ago. For his third wife, Mr. Gilmore married Mrs. Clarice Eddy Biglow. Mr. Gilmore died January 17, 1908. He was one of the early settlers and was prominently identified with the business affairs of the community. In 1873 he served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature.

Norman W. Gilmore, an industrious citizen of Newburg township, was born in Houston county, near the Newburg line, September 29, 1873, son of Walcot N. and Lucy (Van Dorn) Gilmore. He was reared on the home farm, and has always devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. Being a substantial man in the community, he is serving as clerk of the school board in his district, and has taken his part in various public movements. After attending the schools of his neighborhood, he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School, at Valparaiso, Ind., and the education thus received has been supplemented with extensive reading and keen observation. Mr. Gilmore married Mollie, the

daughter of Andrew and Caroline Michaelson, and they have two children: Esther and Garland. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore have traveled extensively from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and spent the winter of 1907 in Sacramento, Cal. Mr. Gilmore owns farm land in Corning, Cal., and is financially interested in the Motor Cycle Company, of Minneapolis.

**E. G. Stensland**, a leading citizen of Newburg township, was born in Kuensdal, Flekkfjord, Norway, October 12, 1857.

Gabriel, his father, came to America, bringing his family, in 1873. After two or three years in Decorah, Iowa, they moved to Hesper in the same state, where they lived three years. They then went to Lyon county, Iowa, and there Gabriel died in 1890, his wife being still a resident of that county.

E. G. Stensland, who furnishes the information for this sketch, received his early schooling in the public schools, and after attaining the years of manhood worked for farmers about Harmony, in this county. In 1882 he went to North Dakota, and engaged in farming for five years. Then he came back to Minnesota, and started farming on his father-in-law's place on section thirty-four, where he and his family still reside. Mr. Stensland married Ingeberg, daughter of Haldor Nelson, and their children are Henry, Ella, Inga, Leonard, Edgar, Emma, Hilda, Nora, Morris and Selmer. Inga is a school teacher. The subject of this sketch is one of the hustling and progressive farmers of Newburg. His farm of 238 acres is all under cultivation. His present dwelling he built in 1891, and his other buildings are large and commodious. His specialty is that of breeding shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. Mr. Stensland is a member of the United Norwegian Lutheran church at Mabel and superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is a member of the Mabel board of education, and has done good service as supervisor of Newburg township. He is also a director in the State Bank of Mabel and a stockholder in the Mabel Elevator Company.

**Butler Olson**, an old resident of the township of Newburg, was born in Sogn, Norway, May 23, 1831, and came to America about 1859, locating near Stoughton, Wis., where he worked at his trade as a shoemaker. A year later he moved to Madison, Wis., and in 1866 came to Newburg village, where for three years he conducted a cobbling shop on the present location of Charles W. Eastman's store. Then he went to farming on section twenty. He moved the house on the place, built a new home, and made many improvements. After eight years he moved to section sixteen. The small house then on the place was

replaced in 1906 with a modern building, and here the family still resides, suitable outbuildings having been erected for stock and crops, and the necessary farm implements and machinery having been acquired from time to time. Mr. Olson married Martha Gulbrandson, and they have five children: Ole (deceased); Ida, wife of Rasmus Houge, of Virginia; Gilbert, at home; John (deceased); and John, of Preble. Mr. Olson is eighty-one years old. The wife and mother died August 1, 1895.

**Gilbert Butler**, a successful farmer of Newburg township, was born in Madison, Wis., August 24, 1864, son of Butler Olson and Matha Gulbrandson, his wife. He received his education in the schools of his neighborhood and has always devoted his life to farming. He now operates and owns the home place, which consist of 200 acres, of which fifty-five acres is timber land. He has been very successful in his operations and is regarded as one of the substantial men of the community. He makes a specialty of breeding full-blooded shorthorn cattle, has been a member of the school board several years, and is a stockholder in the State Bank of Mabel. He is now clerk of the Trinity Norwegian Synod church, and previously served several years as trustee. Mr. Butler was married September 24, 1891, to Petrine Ness, born in Amherst township, September 24, 1872, daughter of Knute Ness, who is still living on the old homestead in Amherst township, and his wife, Gertrude Ramsey Ness, who died March 27, 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Butler have three children: Mabel, Clara (deceased) and Frances.

**D. C. Wiles**, a prosperous farmer of Newburg township, whose place is located near the village of Mabel in section twenty-seven, Newburg township, was born in North Elba, Essex county, New York, April 4, 1852, son of Truman and Abby (Dyer) Wiles, who in 1866 brought their family to Hesper, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father was a carpenter and farmer, and where the parents lived nearly all their lives, the father dying in Mabel, at the home of his son, December 28, 1902, and the mother June 17, 1904. D. C., the subject of this sketch, obtained his schooling in North Elba, N. Y., and in Hesper, Iowa. After he grew to manhood he rented a farm near Hesper, Iowa, and there followed general farming. In 1883 he and his wife went to what was then Dakota territory, and secured a homestead in the northeast quarter of section thirty-four, township 116, range fifty-nine, now Logan township, Clark county. Later they sold this tract. In 1888 Mr. Wiles purchased a farm in section twenty-seven, Newburg township, the place he purchased being that of George Miles, an early settler. Since buying

this place he has greatly improved the land and has remodeled the buildings. Here Mr. Wiles still resides, having forty acres of good land near the village. He has taken an interest in public affairs, has served as chairman of the town board of Newburg four years, town clerk of Newburg township ten years, and town clerk of Hesper township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, six years. He has also occupied other positions of public trust and private honor. He is a Republican in politics and belongs to the Friends church. Mr. Wiles married Emma E. Nelson, born at Thorntown, Ind., August 23, 1854, daughter of Isaac and Vienna (Pike) Nelson, who came from Indiana in 1858 and located near Hesper, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Wiles have one son, Stacy D., born at Hesper, Iowa, July 21, 1880, and now living at home.

**Joseph G. Miner**, now deceased, was born in Vermont, in March, 1835, and moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, with his parents, at the age of sixteen years. In the early fifties, at about the age of eighteen, he came to Minnesota, and acquired land in Newburg township, this county. March 9, 1859, he married Sarah T. Harkness, and together they lived on his farm until 1872, when they sold out and moved to Martin county. Three years later they located in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Then they again came to Newburg township, and lived near Mabel until the spring of 1881, when he moved to the present Miner farm in section twenty-four, and here spent the remainder of his days, passing away in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Miner were the parents of four children: James H., Frederick G. (deceased), Alfred A., and Delia (deceased). James H. married Mary, the daughter of Thomas Gordon, and has four children. Alfred A. married Lulu Stroud, and they have one son, Fred. Mrs. Sarah Harkness Miner was born in Starksboro, Vt., March 29, 1840, daughter of James and Phoebe (Taber) Harkness, who brought their family to section twenty-four, Newburg township, in 1856. In 1857 Mrs. Miner, then Sarah Harkness, taught school in the old preëmption shanty which is now used as a barn on the farm of Robert Rasmus. Her father continued to live in Newburg until some four years before his death, when he removed to Hesper, Iowa, and there ended his days.

**Robert Rasmus**, a farmer of Newburg township, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, November 9, 1856, son of Rasmus and Lettie Rasmussen.

The father was born in Norway, and came to America about 1851, locating in La Salle county, Illinois, and farming for a few years. Then he lived a time in Freeborn county, this state, and in 1859 came to Fillmore county, locating in Preble a short

period. Then he came to Newburg township, and finally settled in section thirty-two, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died about 1873, and his wife is still living.

Robert attended the schools of his neighborhood, and as a young man went to Norman county, Minnesota, and purchased a 320-acre farm, where he farmed fifteen years. Then he returned to Fillmore county in 1892 and conducted a livery at Mabel four years. Subsequently he purchased eighty-one acres in section twenty-seven, Newburg township, adjoining the village of Mabel, and here he still resides. His farm is well cultivated and profitable, and he is regarded as one of the desirable men of the community. It is worthy of note that one of his outbuildings was originally a claim shanty and was used as a schoolhouse for some time, Mrs. Sarah (Harkness) Miner at one time teaching school in it. The subject of this sketch married Betsey Halvorson, born July 10, 1860, in Winneshiek county, Iowa, daughter of Halvor and Ellen (Lee) Olson, of Winneshiek county, Iowa. Their children are: Emma R., Lillian (deceased), Effie, Milo, Bennie, Leslie, Cleo (deceased), Madaline, Thelma, Russell and Elvina. Emma married Ole L. Gabrielson, and they have two children: Beth I. and Lela R. Mr. Rasmus is a Republican, a member of the Methodist church and a stockholder in the Mabel Creamery.

**Benjamin J. Taber**, living on the outskirts of the village of Mabel, is one of those men who by right thinking and honorable vigorous living, carry their youthful vigor and strength of intellect well into the afternoon years of life. His remarkable memory, his clearness of mind, and strength of body may well be envied by men half his age, and testify eloquently to a useful and well spent life. He was born in Lincoln, Vt., November 8, 1825, son of Dr. Benjamin and Phoebe (Carpenter) Taber. He lived in Vermont some twenty-seven years, and while there married Phoebe J. Meader, September 16, 1846. In 1853 they moved to Mount Gilead, Morrow county, Ohio, and there lived until 1857 when they came west where Mr. Taber found employment with his brothers, who had previously located in Hesper, Iowa, and in Newburg township, this county. In 1862 he bought land in section thirty, Newburg township, but did not move here until five years later. This farm he developed and improved, and successfully carried on agricultural operations until August 13, 1902, when he moved to the village of Mabel, where he has a comfortable home, and where he finds enough to do to occupy his time. Mr. Taber is a convert of the sainted Neal Dow, and has always been a strong advocate of temperance. He is a clear and convincing speaker, and has never failed to express his views, both publicly and privately,

whenever the opportunity has afforded, his own life being a most excellent argument in favor of the cause he advocates. He has served on the school board for over twenty years. Mrs. Phoebe J. Meader Taber died May 7, 1860, leaving four children: Irvin G. who is living in Whittier, Calif.; Julia E., the wife of James J. Otis, living in New York state; Francis W., who died in St. Louis, February 22, 1881; and Adelbert E., living at Battle Creek, Mich. Mr. Taber married for his second wife, Charlotte L. Rowe, the marriage being performed January 5, 1862. This union has been blessed with one daughter, Mary A., who after attending the district schools completed her studies in Winona, subsequently teaching school in Fillmore county for a period of eight years. She now lives at home. Mrs. Charlotte L. Rowe died in 1910.

David C. Taber, now deceased, was one of the early settlers and progressive men of the township of Newburg. He was born in Lincoln, Addison county, Vermont, March 15, 1822. His grandfather, Thomas Taber, the founder of the family, came from New Bedford, Mass., and settled in Montpelier, Vt., about 1776. Benjamin, the father of David C., moved from Montpelier, to Starksborough, Addison county, and in 1808 married Phoebe Carpenter, a native of Dutchess county, New York. Benjamin was a physician, and was also a minister in the Society of Friends. David C. remained at home until twenty-three years of age, and was married, October 8, 1845, to Harriet Heading. The following spring he sold his farm interests and engaged with an elder brother in the plow business. Two years later, they moved their business to Bristol, in the same county, and there with increased facilities, they continued to manufacture the then widely-known Taber plow. The business was later sold out, and in 1855, he came west to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and commenced to build up the village of Hesper, Iowa, in various ways. He erected a saw-mill and grist mill, and supplied a large territory with flour. While engaged in this business, he had the distinction of carrying the first mail from Hesper to Burr Oak. In the meantime he secured a farm in section twenty-seven, Newburg township, and here he erected a house built with lumber sawed at his Hesper mill. In 1860 he moved into this house, and spent the larger part of the remainder of his life here. Mr. Taber was a great lover of trees, and upon arriving here began to set out shelter, shade, fruit and ornamental trees in groves, orchards and hedges. He was among the first in this locality to turn his attention to fruit culture, and although many deemed this line of industry impracticable in the Minnesota climate, he made a great success of it, originated the so-called "Minnesota Crab," and won many prizes at state and county fairs. Mr. and Mrs. Taber lived on their New-

burg farm until 1896, when they sold out and returned to Hesper, where they bought a small place and spent the remainder of their days, Mr. Taber passing away in 1906 and his wife in 1909. They were the parents of three children. Eunice married J. L. Hall. Ella became the wife of E. M. Snell. Charles D. is a merchant of Mabel.

**John Manuel**, estimable citizen and retired merchant, now living in Mabel, was born in England, September 29, 1833, son of Charles and Frances (Lavin) Manuel. As a young man he started for America, but was shipwrecked on the way, and was twenty-one days on the Island of Picton, off the coast of New Brunswick. He finally landed in Quebec, and after a time made his way to Minnesota, settling in the village of Elliota, Canton township, this county, where he worked out for four years. He also took a claim and improved it, but never lived on it. In time he purchased a store in Elliota and conducted it for twenty-one years. When the railroad was put through in 1879 he moved to Canton village, and was the first postmaster there. The original name of Boomer is said to have been given at Mr. Manuel's suggestion. Mr. Manuel continued in business in Canton village, some four years, and then sold out to his nephew. April 26, 1886, he purchased the business of the Jones Brothers, at Mabel, and operated this establishment until 1901, when he retired from active life. Mr. Manuel married Phoebe, the daughter of Nicholas and Sarah (Denny) Demaray, and this union has been blessed with four children: William A., Frances S., Effie Maria and Lottie E. Mrs. Manuel died August 27, 1909. The subject of this sketch was for some years a member of the school board and affiliates with Canton Lodge No. 194, A. F. & A. M.

**Ole J. Larson**, a business man of Mabel, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, November 3, 1852, son of Jacob and Sophia (Faa) Larson, who brought him to Newburg township, this county, some two years later. He attended school in Preble township, and remained on the home farm until he was about twenty years of age. Then he purchased eighty acres in section three, Newburg township, and started farming for himself. He was married December 22, 1877, and in 1879 moved to Mabel, where he engaged in the stock business with Ellef L. Tollefson. After two years this partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Larson then engaged in the hardware and implement business for ten years. He was burned out at the end of this period, losing some \$10,000. Undaunted by this disaster, he again engaged in the hardware and implement business. Later he sold out the hardware department to Albert Jones. In 1890 he also disposed of his implement

business and moved to Halstead, Norman county, Minnesota, where he engaged in the livery and implement business, with B. K. Swenson as a partner. After two years he sold out and returned to Mabel, where he again engaged in the implement business. A few years later, he sold out to his former partner, B. K. Swenson, and since that time has devoted his attention to the buying and selling of horses in which he is now engaged. He is a most excellent judge of horseflesh and has been very successful at his chosen business. Being of a sociable nature, Mr. Larson has allied himself with the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. The members of his family are regular attendants of the United Lutheran church. Mr. Larson married for his first wife, Mary, the daughter of Nels Johnson, and this union was blessed with six children: Sadie, Orland C. (deceased), Mamie L., Jeneva N., Walter E., of California; and Grace, of Medicine Lake, Mont. Sadie married Oscar Henderson, of Halstead, Minn.; Mamie married Bernard Fleshjer, of Medicine Lake, Mont.; Jeneva N. is a teacher. The wife and mother died March 19, 1895. For his second wife, Mr. Larson married Ellen Iverson, December 8, 1897, and they have five children: Grant E., Melvin O., Beatrice, Clarence (deceased), and Russell C.

**Jacob Larson**, the pioneer, was born near Stavanger, Norway, February 22, 1821, and came to America in 1847, locating in La Salle county, Illinois, where he was married shortly afterward to Sophie Faa Olson, born in Norway, February 20, 1823. In 1854 with several of their children, they came to Newburg township, this county, bought government land in section three, and there carried on general farming until 1881, when Mr. Larson retired from active life, and moved to Mabel, where he died March 1, 1900. His wife died August 16, 1902. It is interesting to note that the log cabin originally built by Mr. Larson was burned on the day of his burial, March 5, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Larson were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living. They are: Mrs. Martha Arneson, of Lenora; Ole J., of Mabel; Mrs. T. N. Johnson, of Newburg township; Lewis J., living on the old homestead; Caroline, deceased; Josephine, now Mrs. J. N. Johnson, of Mabel; Mrs. Sophia Swenson, living in Mabel; and Charles, living in Newburg township.

**Knute Olson**, a Mabel business man, with establishments in Mabel and Fountain, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, January 26, 1865.

**Ole Knutson**, his father, was born in Hilingdal, near Christiana, Norway, and came to America in 1861. At the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Vol-



unteer Infantry, and served until his discharge at the close of the hostilities. He was badly wounded in battle, but gradually recovered, and is now living in Mabel, after a long and useful career.

Knute attended the district schools, and took courses in the Breckenridge Institute and in the Commercial College, at Decorah, Iowa. For several years he engaged in the creamery business with the firm of Johnson & Olson, and later continued the business alone in Spring Grove and Mabel. He discontinued the business about 1895, and engaged in the lumber and fuel line, an enterprise which he still owns. In 1904 he established a lumber, hardware and implement business at Fountain, which he is still conducting. Mr. Olson married Helen Bersie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hellek Bersie, and have three children: Henrietta graduated from the Mabel High school and is now attending the State Normal School at La Crosse; Nord and Olga are at home. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Evangelical church, of Mabel. Mr. Olson is a Republican in politics, and at various times has served on the Mabel village council. Aside from his stores, he owns 160 acres of land in North Dakota, and is financially interested in the furniture store of Fingerson & Olson, of Mabel. He is also a director and stockholder in the State Bank of Mabel.

**Charles B. Willford** was a great-grandson of Samuel Willford, who lived in Leicestershire, England, about 150 years ago and is the first ancestor whose name is known to the descendants. Where this ancestor was born and when is a matter of conjecture. The family name of his wife is unknown. There were born to this pair three sons, the oldest of whom practiced medicine in London, England, the second son went to Germany and the third, Joseph, came to America in 1766. This Joseph Willford and his wife, Mary Campbell, were the first Willford family in America. Their son Joseph Willford married Mary Ann Enochs. Charles B. was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, January 5, 1816, and was the fourth son and seventh birth in a family of thirteen children. In the summer of 1817, his parents, Joseph Willford and Mary Ann (Enochs) Willford, with their seven children, Joseph, Dougal C., Mary, Eliza, Samuel C., Susannah and Charles B., emigrated from Greene county, Pennsylvania, to Wayne county, Ohio, and settled in Sugar Creek township, when that country was in its primitive state and sparsely settled. Here the subject of this sketch grew to manhood on a farm. On May 31, 1836, he was united in marriage to Eliza Kerr in Marshallville, Ohio. The Kerr family is an old American family of Scotch-Irish extraction and is now represented by numerous descendants scattered over Pennsylvania and Ohio, many of whom are

prominent professional citizens. Shortly after the marriage of Charles B. Willford and Eliza Kerr they settled about five miles northwest of Big Spring in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, on land that was included in the newly purchased Wyandot Indian reservation of 16,000 acres. Big Spring, situated on the road from Upper Sandusky to Fort Findlay, was the center of the reservation. After the ratification of the treaty in 1832, the reservation was surveyed into sections and put into the market and disposed of in the ordinary manner of selling the public lands of the United States. The money derived from the sale at \$1.25 an acre was paid to the Indians. The land on the reservation purchased by Charles B. Willford was covered with a dense growth of heavy timber. In this forest a log cabin eighteen feet wide, twenty feet long and ten feet high was built in the summer of 1836. The door was made by sawing or cutting the logs in one side of the cabin so as to make an opening about three feet wide. This opening was secured by upright pieces of timber about three inches thick through which holes were bored into the ends of the logs for the purpose of pinning them fast. A window of twelve eight by ten lights was put in the west side, and another window of like size was put in at the side of the door on the east side of the cabin. The door was about two and one-half feet wide by six feet high, made of yellow poplar boards, rived and split with a frow, and hung on wooden hinges. The wood latch had a string attached, reaching to the outside of the door. A similar opening to that of the door, but wider, was made at the south end of the cabin for the chimney. This was built of split logs on the outside, and made large to admit of a back and jamb of stone to the height of about five feet. The upper portion of the chimney was built of split sticks and plastered with mud. At the square of the cabin two end logs projected a foot or eighteen inches beyond the wall to receive the butting poles as they were called, against which the ends of the first row of clapboards was supported. The roof was formed by making the end logs shorter until a single log formed the comb of the roof. On these logs the clapboards were placed; the ranges of them lapping some distance over those next below them and kept in their places by logs placed at proper distances upon them to prevent the wind from blowing them off. The clapboards were made by riving and splitting with a frow. The lower floor was made of puncheons split out of yellow poplar timber and hewed on the upper side. The upper floor was of the same material and hewed on both sides to a thickness. The cracks between the logs were filled with split sticks and plastered with clay mortar. From this period of time until the Wyandot Indians left the reservation in 1845 their begging and stealing made them very troublesome to the family



WILLIAM WILLFORD'S RESIDENCE

that had just established themselves, but the twain having plenty of grit and perserverance and a determination to make for them a home amid the lofty forest continued to fell the trees and clear the ground, to plow and sow, and reap and thresh until the eleventh day of September, 1854, when they with their four sons and one daughter: William, who was born in 1837; Charles, born in 1839; Wesley, born in 1841; Sanford, born in 1844, and Sidnia Jane, born in 1849, removed to the territory of Minnesota and settled on section fourteen, town 101, range nine, which is now known as Canton township, Fillmore county. Here was erected a log cabin in October, 1854, similar to the one built in Ohio in 1836, but without the split stick and mud chimney. At this time the Winnebago Indians were here, and roamed over the prairies at will, engaged in begging and stealing from the settlers. There were at this time not to exceed twenty-four bona fide settler families in the township. Land at this time in the territory of Minnesota was obtained only by the pre-emption act, and the subject of this sketch, on October 21, 1854, pre-empted the north-east quarter (160 acres) of section fourteen, town 101, range nine, and in 1855 bought 250 acres more land in sections eleven and fourteen, in town 101, range nine, which bordered on his pre-emption quarter, and engaged in the growing of spring wheat, which was at that time the staple of the country. In 1856 he was appointed the first postmaster at Lenora in the territory of Minnesota, which he held for many years. Of this family of seven persons, four are deceased: Sidnia Jane Willford died in Canton, Minn., August 31, 1871; Eliza (Kerr) Willford died in Canton, Minn., September 15, 1871; Charles B. Willford died in Canton, Minn., February 23, 1889, and Wesley Willford died in Canton, Minn., June 30, 1906. Those of the family yet living are: William Willford, Canton; Charles Willford, Canton; Sanford Willford, Bellingham, Wash. The Willford, Campbell, Enochs and Kerr families belonged to the middle classes. They were industrious, law abiding and God-fearing people. No member of the family ever became very rich, and none were very poor.

William Willford was the eldest son of Charles B. Willford, of Wayne county, Ohio, of English and Scotch-Irish descent, and Eliza, daughter of William Kerr, of the same county and state, of Scotch-Irish descent. He was also the great-grandson of Joseph Willford, of Leicestershire, England, who settled in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1766, and Mary Campbell, of Scotch-Irish parentage, who with her parents lived in central Pennsylvania prior to 1757. She was taken prisoner by the Delaware Indians at or near Penn's creek in Pennsylvania in

1757 and held in captivity until rescued by Colonel Bouquet at the Forks of the Muskingum river in Ohio in November, 1764. He was born March 3, 1837, in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, five miles northwest of Big Spring (better known in his boyhood days as Springville), which was situated in the southwest corner of what is now known as Seneca county, Ohio (formerly Crawford county), in the center of the Wyandot Indian reservation of 16,000 acres of land that was granted to the Wyandot Indians according to a treaty made by the United States with the Indian tribes September 29, 1817, and ceded back to the United States by the Wyandot Indians at Big Spring by a treaty held at McCutcheonville, Crawford county, Ohio, on January 19, 1832. The farm on which the subject of this sketch was born was purchased by his father from the United States, after the Wyandot Indian reservation was surveyed, for \$1.25 per acre. At that period of time the land was covered by a dense forest. It was on this farm that William spent his boyhood years and learned the art of farming. Here, too, he was educated in the country log school houses. After he had attained the age of twelve years he worked on the farm in the summer and attended school only in the winter. About the first of September, 1853, his parents decided to send him to the Seminary in Findlay, Ohio, and bought for him his first suit of tailor-made clothes. Prior to that time all his clothing was spun, woven and made by his mother. He attended the Seminary until March, 1854, when he entered the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, where he remained until about the middle of June, which was the end of the spring term, and then returned home. In the meantime his parents had decided to sell the farm in Hancock county, Ohio, and remove to the territory of Minnesota in the early autumn of 1854. They therefore opposed the idea of their son remaining in Ohio and persuaded him to abandon his contemplated two years' course at the university and to accompany the family to the territory of Minnesota, to which he very reluctantly consented, thus terminating his education. After the necessary arrangements were made for the departure of the family, consisting of seven persons, with two two-horse teams and wagons heavily loaded, they bade good-bye to the Buckeye State on September 11, 1854, and arrived at their destination on Saturday, October 7, following, making the entire trip of more than six hundred miles in twenty-two days of travel. In December, 1854, when at the age of seventeen years, he engaged to teach a district school of sixty scholars, at Ly Brand, Iowa, one-third of whom were older than the teacher. While teaching at this place he was named the "Boy Schoolmaster," and was known by this sobriquet for many years thereafter. In 1855 and 1856 he taught the second



WILLIAM WILLFORD'S BARN

winter term of school in the first school house in Fillmore county that was built for school purposes. He continued teaching until he had taught sixteen winter terms, many of which were of four months' duration each. The summer time was spent on his father's farm assisting to break up the land and subdue the virgin soil for the growing of the golden grain, which was the staple crop of the country at that period. On October 10, 1858, he was united in marriage to Mary J. Ward, at Lenora, Minn. Their union was blessed with four children: Edson R., born in 1859; Anna E., born in 1862; Minna A., born in 1867, and George W., born in 1876, all of whom are now living. There are also nine grandchildren living. Mr. Willford has served in his home town on the board of education for many years, as township assessor from 1859 to 1876, and as town clerk from 1860 to 1884. He has also been a notary public since 1875. He was engaged in selling lumber in Canton, Minn., from 1880 to 1888, both inclusive. In June, 1881, he purchased a half interest in the townsite of Canton from Frank Adams, which was disposed of about ten years later. He was appointed and commissioned postmaster at Canton in 1884 and held the office until 1889. He has been a member of the Scotch-Irish Society of America since the year of 1892. He is also a member of the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers' Association. The subject of this sketch became a resident of Fillmore county in October, 1854. The territory of Minnesota was then an immense wilderness and the greater part of it in the possession of the Indians. The opportunities afforded by his early and continued association with the pioneer settlers, assisted by a habit of close observation, a tenacious memory, and the interest he took in gathering up incidents indicative of the times and illustrative of the character of those among whom he lived, pre-eminently qualified him for giving an impartial description of the country at its first settlement as well as a truthful account of the manners and customs of those who with himself labored to transform into fruitfulness and beauty its interminable prairies in Fillmore county. This won for him the honor of being the first president and the first historian of the Old Settlers' Association in Fillmore county. He now, at the age of seventy-five years, is classed among the retired farmers of the county, but owns a farm of 240 acres of land in Canton township, part of which was pre-empted by his father October 21, 1854, and the remainder of which was pre-empted by his uncle February 9, 1855, all now well improved and under a good state of cultivation, well stocked with thoroughbred and high-grade domestic animals. All these advantages, with the commodious buildings mostly erected with his own hands, make it an ideal home, christened the "Floral Park" by the guests at the golden wedding anniversary of himself and wife,

October 10, 1908. Here Mr. and Mrs. Willford are spending their declining years in peace, contentment and comfort, surrounded by the love and care of their friends and relatives. To Mr. Willford the change in Fillmore county since he crossed the south line of what is now the state of Minnesota in a "prairie schooner" in 1854 and the present time is hardly credible. The wild prairies that were once inhabited by buffalo, antelope and deer are now cultivated into fields of corn and golden grain. The Indian wigwam villages are replaced with prosperous cities and towns. The nightly howl of the prairie wolf has been changed to the shriek of the modern locomotive. In place of the Indian, we have the white man, the author of all this progress, and verily can it be said of him, "he made the prairie smile." Mr. Willford has contributed numerous articles to this history, and without his generous assistance and his clear memory the present work would hardly have been possible.

**Charles B. Kimball**, the pioneer, was born in New Hampshire in 1809, and when young learned the trade of a cabinet maker. He, however, devoted the larger part of his life to farming. He located in Kane county, Ill., in 1833, and brought his family to section 32, Canton township, this county, in 1854. After a long and useful life, he died December 13, 1873.

**Charles Willford**, a broad-gauged man and a substantial citizen of the village of Canton, was born in Big Lick, Hancock county, Ohio, June 5, 1839. When quite young he accompanied his parents to Wayne county, Ohio, but they shortly afterward returned to Hancock county, where Charles spent his young boyhood. In the fall of 1854 they came to Canton, where the father, Charles B. Willford, the pioneer, preëmpted land in section fourteen. Charles, the subject of this sketch, remained on the home farm with his parents until his marriage, July 20, 1862. Then he started farming for himself on section 14. For many years he engaged in general agricultural pursuits, and in time purchased two other farms, one being a tract on which a part of the village of Canton is located. He moved to the latter farm in 1880, and eight years later retired to a large degree from active farm life. In 1888 he was enabled to gratify his taste for travel, and visited England, Ireland, Scotland and France. In 1904 he took another interesting trip, his journey being across the continent to Los Angeles, Cal., thence northward to Spokane, and then back to Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Willford are the parents of three children: Nettie A., Marshall C., and Jennie M. Marshall married Sarah H. A. Demary on March 24, 1887, and they have three children: Oria L., Gladys L. and Byron C.



Jennie M. married Samuel Duxbury, Jr., November 23, 1898, and they have two children: Vernon E. and Doris L. Mrs. Charles Willford, who was Mary E. Swartwood before her marriage, was born January 9, 1842.

**Lewis Peterson** (Stenshoel), a well-known resident of Canton township, was born in Norway, April 6, 1843, and came to America with his parents, and brothers and sisters, in 1854. The family, headed by Peter Stenshoel, the father, landed in Quebec, but came direct to the states, made a short visit with friends in Dane county, Wisconsin, and then came to Canton, this county, arriving in August, 1854. They purchased the claim of James Kelley in section three, and took up their residence in a log house which had been built on the claim, the family at that time consisting of the father and mother, two girls and five boys. On this place the father and mother died. Lewis remained on the home farm, and as he grew to manhood married Marthena Jacobson, who was born February 28, 1850, in Norway and came to America in 1868. She has borne him four children: Emma (deceased); Agnes Marie, Philip H. and Ellen Louisa. Agnes is the wife of Lewis Linn and they have one child, named Lewis from both his father and grandfather. Philip H. and Ellen Louisa live at home, and the latter is the life and sunshine of the household. Mr. Peterson is a veteran of the Civil War. He enlisted in 1864 in Company B., Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and saw active service until mustered out and honorably discharged in 1865. Mr. Peterson's home which he erected some years ago is comfortable and homelike, and the outbuildings are suitable for the purpose for which they were planned. A new barn just erected testifies both to Mr. Peterson's success and his modern spirit. He has served on the town board of supervisors and is treasurer of the Elstad Lutheran church, of which he and the family are members.

**Charles A. Kimball** was born in Elgin, Kane county, Ill., in 1850, son of Charles B. Kimball. He was brought to section thirty-two, Canton township, by his parents when four years of age. Here he grew to manhood. After attaining the years of discretion, he married Eva, the daughter of Jesse Beach. He died in 1882.

In 1903 his widow moved to the village of Canton, and there, in 1904, she was married to John Young.

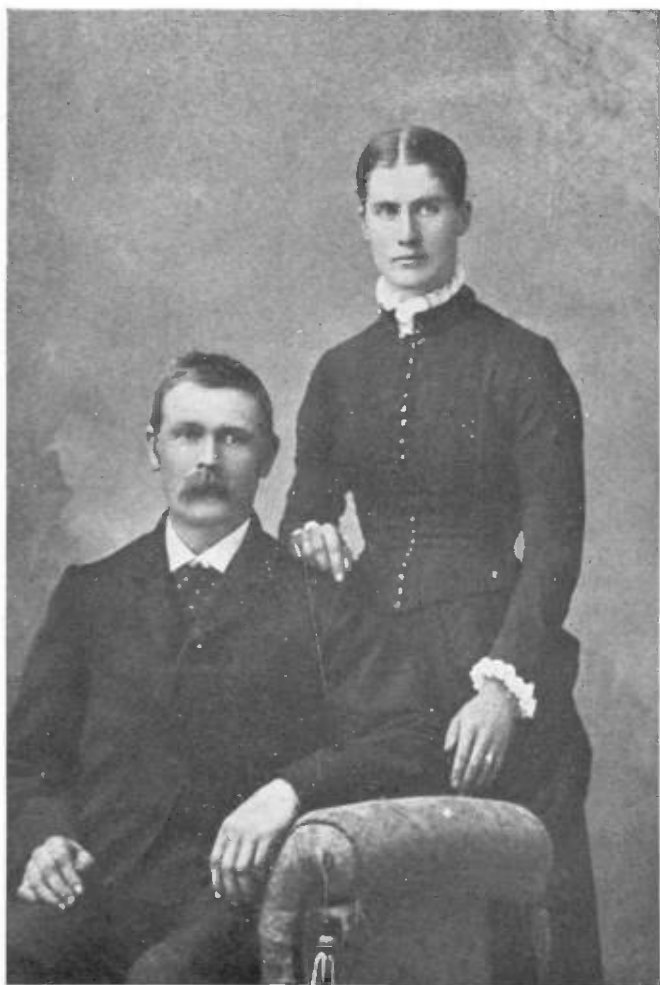
**Jesse C. Kimball**, of the third generation of Canton Kimballs, was born in Elliot, section thirty-two, Canton township, April 21, 1873, son of Charles and Eva (Beach) Kimball. He attended

the Elliota school, and has always remained on the home farm, following faithfully in the footsteps of those who have gone before him. The farm consists of 160 acres, all of which is under cultivation, and a specialty is made of Poll Angus cattle. The subject of this sketch married Agatha, daughter of Andrew and Priscilla (Dean) Snyder, of Ohio, and they have three children: Leona, Clair and Marie.

**Ole Kyseth**, a substantial resident of Canton township, was born in the western part of Toten, Norway, October 4, 1847, and came to America with his wife in 1869, locating in Canton township, where he worked for L. Woodle for a short time. Then he went to Winnishiek county, Iowa, for a time, and there worked for various persons. Later he returned to Canton, and in partnership with his brother, Jens, bought 120 acres in section 8. Afterward they purchased another forty acres from L. Woodle. Subsequently, however, they decided to divide up their possessions. The subject of this sketch continues to live on his eighty-two acres, the farm being well cultivated and well-kept in every way. He built the comfortable dwelling and good buildings which now add to the value of the place. Ole Kyseth married Carrie Roseth, and this union has resulted in nine children: John, Bramina, Carl, Emma, Melvin (deceased), Clara, Otelia, Olaf and Tena (deceased). John and Carl live in North Dakota. Bramina married Adolph Boxrud and they have three children, Hilda, Clarence and James. Carl is married and has six children: Marie, Emma, Melvin, Florence, Orville and Raymond. He lives in North Dakota. Emma married Fred Collett and they have four children; Marion, James, Orrin and Howard. Clara is the wife of John Coyle and they have one child, Norman H. Olaf, one of the popular young men of Canton lives at home and operates the farm in a successful manner. He married Marie Larson, the daughter of Peter Larson and they have two children, Ogden and Carmen.

**Ole Knudson**, a retired farmer now living in Lanesboro, was born in Norway, and came to America in 1861, visiting Lanesboro, and then settling in section 31, Amherst township. In 1880 he moved to section 1, Canton township, and some twenty years later retired from active life and took up his residence in Lanesboro where he now resides. His good wife, Serena, proved a capable wife and mother.

**Charles O. Knudson**, a common sense farmer of Canton township, was born in Amherst township, this county, September 28, 1868, son of Ole and Serena Knudson. He was reared on the



MR. AND MRS. GUNDER OLSON

home farm, and attended school in Amherst and in district 4, Canton. Since his schooldays he has devoted his life to farming. His present place consists of 247½ acres, practically all cultivated, and in addition to this he has twenty acres of timber land in Preble township. His house was erected some fourteen years ago, and this dwelling as well as his buildings are all in an excellent state of repair. Mr. Knudson married Josie, the daughter of Arch and Bertha Johnson, and this union has been blessed with seven children, of which four, Vernon M., Blanche, Owen E. and Marion are living. The family are members of the Methodist church at Newburg.

**Gunder Olson**, now deceased, was a hard working, God-fearing resident of Canton township, quietly devoting his life to the interests of his family. He was born February 6, 1846, in Christiana, Norway, and came to America in 1869 at the age of twenty-three years, locating at once in Elliot, this county, being employed as a farm hand for a number of years. In 1870 he took on shares the place now known as the Knox farm, managing this so well that three years later he was enabled to purchase eighty acres in section 32, Canton township. In 1885 he married Janetha Johnson, a native of Norway, whose farm name was Rodvikstrand, and who at that time was twenty-one years of age. The following year a frame house was erected, and about this time, Mr. Olson brought his parents from the old country to make their home with him and his wife. As time passed, five children came to bless the home. Henry lives at home and manages the farm; Gena lives in Knox, North Dakota; Eda lives in Canton; Carl and Olena live at home. All have been scholars in the school of district 25. Gunder Olson died December 10, 1887, and since then the cares of the family have devolved upon Mrs. Olson and the children. The family is an estimable one, and is well regarded in the community.

**Ole Hanson**, a progressive farmer of Canton township, was born in Norway, February 23, 1842, and in July, 1867, came to America and settled on section 23, Canton township, where he purchased a farm from John Willford. The place at that time contained eighty acres, and there was a frame house and a granary thereon. The farm has been developed and improved and increased until he owned 315 acres. In the fall of 1911 he sold 90 acres and now has 225 acres. The buildings have been repaired and enlarged as necessity has demanded. Seventy-eight acres of the farm are in section 23, forty acres in section 26, and eighty acres in section 24. Mr. Hanson is one of the substantial farmers of the community, and is known for his sterling qualities. He

married Mary Knutson, a native of Norway, and they have eight children: Hans lives at home; Mary is the wife of John Lean; Annie married Joseph Torgerson; Mattie married Otto Abrahamson; Kasper is living in Alexander; Otelia is the wife of Albert Dahl; Clara married Oscar Olson; Leonard lives in Canton. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Methodist church of Newburg.

**James C. Henderson**, a representative citizen, living in the township of Canton, this county, was born at St. Crimme, about thirty miles from Montreal, Canada, August 20, 1848. His father and mother and their four sons came to Minneapolis in the year 1854, driving by team the entire way. They located on section 26, in the southeastern part of what is now Preston township, and borrowed \$100 from J. P. Tibbetts to pre-empt eighty acres, cash being so scarce in those days that they paid sixty per cent for its use. In course of time, they took up forty acres more, being assisted in the purchase by Daniel Fairbanks. The father continued to operate this farm until his death at the age of sixty-five years, the mother passing away several years afterward. James C., the subject of this narrative, was reared on the home farm, and obtained his schooling in the log school house in district 46. It is of interest to note that Mr. Henderson's mother was so much interested in the building of this school-house, that she gave a prize to the man that would haul in the first load of logs, all the farmers in the district having turned out to cut and haul the material for the building. The edifice was completed in 1856 and used in 1857, as a school room, Catherine Bursell, now Mrs. J. C. Rice of Canton, having been the first teacher. James C. continued to live on the home place until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he went to Wisconsin, seven miles west of Barraboo, where he worked for John Harrison eight months. He then returned to Preston that fall and worked on the Southern Minneapolis railroad which was being constructed from Rushford to Lanesboro. After that he worked at various employment during the summer, and at one time broke up some grub land in Preston township, which was so tough as to require five yoke of oxen and a twenty-four inch breaking plow. In the winter months he attended district school. In the fall of 1872 he went to Middletown, Jackson county, Minnesota, and homesteaded the southeast quarter section 4, range 35, township 101; and in addition to this rented land already broken. This he plowed in the fall and during the following spring he put in 120 acres of oats, wheat and barley. But this was one of the years of the locust pest, and by August 1, the crops were entirely destroyed. Mr. Henderson and his neighbors

applied to the land office for assistance, and the government finally granted them relief, by allowing them to still hold their claims, while absent for six months in search of other work. At the end of this period Mr. Henderson returned to his homestead and commuted it. Several years afterward he sold it at a good profit. In 1874 he rented the William Rice farm in Harmony township which he operated three years. The first year he had Jas. G. Duxbury for a partner. The second year he was associated with his brother William. The third year he worked it alone. He then went to Preston township where he rented eighty acres of wild land which he broke and then farmed for four years, after which he worked out as a farmer. Subsequently he purchased a quarter section in Harmony township which he broke and cultivated. In October, 1883, he sold it to C. F. and George Densted, and then after selling out his stock and other property he went to New Orleans. In April, 1884, he returned to Fillmore county, and engaged in buying and shipping horses to Dakota, making his home in Harmony village. In the fall of 1887 he hired out to Thomas McMichael as a stock buyer and at the expiration of two years with him bought a small farm from G. H. Hyatt, in section 33, Canton township. In 1890, he sold this and bought 276½ acres in Amherst from Edward Griffith. This farm he operated for several years. In 1894 he sold fifty acres to William Harris and in the spring of 1905 disposed of the balance of it to Daniel Rasmussen. In 1903 Mr. Henderson in connection with several farmers built the Amherst Creamery, of which he was made president, an office which he still continues to hold. Mr. Henderson gave all his efforts to the management and building of the creamery and on July 6, 1903, saw the fruition of his labors, for on that day the first churning was done in the new institution. The creamery is today in a flourishing condition. In February, 1903, Mr. Henderson purchased a farm from C. W. Ramsey in sections 10 and 11, near Lenora village. This farm is rented to F. W. Seelye, the proprietor of the Leonora Hotel. Mr. Henderson is of Scottish descent, his father Robert Henderson being a native of Canada and his mother Janet Douglas of Scotland. He is a bachelor, and leads a life of comfort and contentment by keeping himself constantly employed. His brother John was born July 5, 1854, and is claimed to be the first white male born in Preston township.

W. A. Maust, for many years a prominent citizen of Fillmore county, now makes his home in Fruithurst, Alabama, but still keeps up his interests in Canton. He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1837, and in 1867, thirty years later,

came to Preston, this county, and lived about a year before locating in section 4, Canton township. Here he purchased a farm on which at that time was standing a log cabin. In this he lived until 1877, when he erected a fine frame dwelling. Mr. and Mrs. Maust were blessed with nine children. The farm consists of 200 acres and is operated by two of the sons, Sherman H. and Albert H. who furnish the information for this biography.

**Albert H. Maust**, a capable farmer of Canton township, was born on the farm where he still resides, February 15, 1867, son of W. A. and Eliza (Wagner) Maust. He was reared at home and obtained his schooling in Henrytown, since which time he has been engaged in farming, he and his brother, Sherman H. being now in charge of their parents' place of 200 acres. In 1896 he married Stella Graham who died in 1897 leaving one child, Stella. In 1902 he married Levina Johnson who died in 1905.

**Sherman H. Maust**, an efficient agriculturist of Canton township, was born in Pennsylvania, January 15, 1866, son of W. A. and Eliza (Wagner) Maust. He was brought to this county by his parents and grew to manhood on the home farm, which with his brother Albert H. he now operates for his father. He married Cora Treadaway, daughter of Jacob Treadaway, in Tallapoosa, Haraludson county, Georgia, December 22, 1902, and they have three children, H. Lloyd, Roy L. and Hilda M.

**Joseph Dunford**, implement merchant of the firm of Dunford & Knudson, was born in England, March 21, 1865, son of George H. Dunford. Joseph was brought to America by his parents, and was reared in Bremer county, Iowa, where he also received his early schooling. After attending the district schools, he entered the high school at Waverly, Iowa, and there continued his studies until reaching nineteen years of age, when he went to Mason City, Iowa, and worked for Edwards & Osborne, three and a half years. In 1888 he came to Canton village, and took charge of the lumber yard here for the same people. In 1890, the name of the firm was changed to Sawyer & Austin Lumber Company. At this time Mr. Dunford went on the road for them. After a period this concern sold out to Sawyer & Arnold, and Mr. Dunford still continued in their employ as traveling auditor. In 1895 he engaged in the hardware business in Canton, which business he conducted until 1906 when he sold out to E. T. Soland. He then went on the road for the National Harvester Company, buying flax straw. This continued for two years, after which he engaged in the implement business in Canton,

which business he and his partner, A. S. Knudson are now successfully conducting. Mr. Dunford is a member of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M. and also of Canton Camp, No. 2709, M. W. A. He is a Republican in politics and is now clerk of Canton township. The subject of this sketch married Elenor Selee, April, 1895, daughter of William Selee.

**John Young**, one of the early residents of Canton township, was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, on December 25, 1843, and was fifteen years of age when he located with his parents in Fillmore county.

John Young, the father, was born in Dunfermline, Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1812, and married Ellen Drysdale. When young he was employed in the manufacture of damask goods. Later he conducted an inn, and operated an omnibus line from his native city to Charleston. Still later he was engaged in the brewery business. In 1858 he brought his family to America, and located in section 29, Canton township, this county, where he farmed until a few years before his death in 1892. His first wife died and his second wife is now over ninety years old.

The subject of this sketch continued on the home farm working for his father, until he started farming on his own account. For many years he was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits and became an extensive land owner in Canton township. In 1896 he practically disposed of his holdings, and is now a man of comfortable leisure, he and his wife having a pleasant home in the village of Canton. His first wife was Amanda Halsey, who died in 1903, leaving three children: John O., Anna Bell and Allen L. The sons live in Canada. Anna Bell married Clyde Truman and has one boy, Neol. For his second wife, Mr. Young married in 1904, Mrs. Eva Beach Kimball, widow of the late Charles Kimball and the daughter of Jesse Beach who was one of the early settlers.

**M. J. Willsie**, a former resident of this county, but now living in Winneschek county, Iowa, on the line road which separates that county from Fillmore county, was born in Clinton county, New York, July 24, 1842, son of John and Sabra (Hudson) Willsie, the former a native of New York and the latter of New Hampshire. In 1842, when M. J. was an infant, the family moved to Canada, but in 1856 returned to the States, and coming west, located in Newburg township, this county, purchasing a farm from Rev. W. T. Bly, a Baptist clergyman. At the time of the purchase there was a log house on the place. In later years this was replaced by a stone house. John Willsie died July 11, 1879, on the home place, and his wife died in Canton township March



1, 1887, at the home of her son. The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm and obtained his schooling in district 4. In 1863 he went to Kansas and was engaged as a clerk one year. Then he moved to Illinois, where, in 1864, he enlisted in the 139th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving six months in Company D. After his discharge, he returned to Fillmore county and in 1868 purchased a farm in Canton township, section 12, where he lived four years, after which he sold out and moved to Murray county, this state, where he remained a year. Then he returned to this county and lived five years on the homestead in Newburg. Subsequently he moved to Lenora village, where he was made postmaster and served five years. There he lived until 1883, when he moved to section 22, where he lived until 1891, when he took up his present residence. December 25, 1867, he was united in marriage with Frances M., daughter of John and granddaughter of Henry Plomteaux. Her mother Hanna Miller was born in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Willsie are the parents of eight children: Carrie, John, Nellie, Frances, George, James, Charity and Milo J., Jr. Carrie is the wife of Mark McLaughlin and they have four sons, Joseph, Ray, Francis and George. John is dead. Nellie is the wife of Ira Kimber, living in Hesper, Iowa, and their children are: Elma, William, Lila, John, Teddy, Milo and Elsie. Frances married E. P. Sprague and there are six children: Ellen, Ora, Milo, Stanley, Frances and Richard. George is conducting the home farm. James lives in Burr Oak, Iowa. He married Elsie Chase and they have two children Charity and Donna. Charity has been teaching since 1900 in Bluffton, Hesper and Burr Oak. Milo J., Jr., died November 9, 1910, at the age of nineteen years, his death being a sad blow to his parents and friends. It is interesting to note that Mrs. M. J. Willsie taught school before she was married in Newburgh, Amherst and Preble townships. Mr. Willsie has now retired from active work, the farm being operated by his son, George. He has held many offices of trust, was postmaster at Lenora in 1878, was second assistant clerk in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature in 1879, and was engrossing clerk of that session and the session of 1881. He has been town clerk of Canton and was assessor of that township for a number of terms as well as one term in Newburg. He is a member of Burr Oak Lodge, No. 143, I. O. O. F.

**R. A. Sturgeon, M. D.**, an early and successful physician of Fillmore county, now deceased, was born in Belfast, Ireland, June 4, 1830. In his youth he attended Dr. Bryce's Academy, and later Queen's College, both at Belfast, graduating from the latter institution in 1847, having in the meantime spent two years

in the Belfast Hospital. After graduation he went to Liverpool where he received an appointment as medical officer on board the Silas Greenman, bound for New York. Upon reaching his destination, he started out in search of his brother who had come to America several years previous. After considerable travel, he found that his brother had died at Montreal, Canada, leaving a widow and several children. Dr. Sturgeon lived in Montreal three years. There he lost his wife, Harriet Scriver, and he then came to the States, and located in Burr Oak, Iowa, where he lived two years, subsequently coming to this county and staying a few months in Canton.

During the war he was in Missouri, and at the close of the conflict he returned to Fillmore county, and took up once more the practice of his profession. July 18, 1866, he was married at Preston, to Jane Young, daughter of John and Helen (Drysdale) Young, who came from Fifeshire, Dunfirmline, Scotland, in October, 1858, and located in section 29, Canton township, where their daughter Jane lived until her marriage with Dr. Sturgeon, to whom she bore six children. Helen is dead. Georgiana lives with her mother at home. Robert lives in Canada. He married Angie Hubbell, and they have four children, Vila, Howard, Mae and Lloyd. Harriet and Florence are dead. William is a merchant in Canton. He married Minnie Johnson and they have one child, Lois. Dr. Sturgeon was actively engaged in the practice of his profession for many years and won the love and confidence of the community by his gentle and skilled ministrations at the bedside of the feeble and suffering. During the latter years of his life, his own health was greatly impaired, and on January 8, 1901, he passed from those whose loving care had brightened his suffering. In 1893 Dr. Sturgeon became postmaster of Canton, and served until 1897 when he was succeeded by his daughter, Georgiana, who still serves, giving general satisfaction by her industrious application to the duties of the place. Mrs. Sturgeon and Miss Georgiana have a pleasant home in the village of Canton.

Germund Sauer, a substantial resident, now deceased, was born in Norway, 1836, and there married Isabel Olson. With his wife he came to America in 1869, and after coming to this county lived a time in Harmony, where they stayed a short time, subsequently moving to Canton and purchasing a farm from Theodore J. Eames. Here the nine children were born and reared. Germund Sauer died September 26, 1897, and his widow still lives on the home place in section 10. The children are: Lena and Gilbert, at home; Anna, wife of C. K. Hanson, of Reeder, North Dakota; Hilda, wife of Alfred Olson, of Lockhart, Norman

county, Minnesota; Ida, wife of Elvin Erickson, of Marshall county, Minnesota; George, who married Julia Anderson and lives in Canton township; and Nettie, Clarence and Luella, who are at home.

**Gilbert Sauer**, a popular farmer of Canton township, was born on the place where he now lives, November 9, 1871, son of Germund and Isabel (Olson) Sauer. He was reared on the home farm, and attended school in Lenora, since which time he has devoted his life to farming. He makes his home with his mother on the home place, and he and his brothers operate the family farm which consists of 360 acres of good land. Since the death of the father many improvements have been made, including the erection of a granary and barn.

**Thomas Rice**, a leading resident of the village of Canton, was born in the province of Quebec, near Montreal, April 4, 1837, son of Thomas and Mary (Cobine) Rice, the former of whom was born in County Armagh, Ireland, and the latter in County Monaghan, Ireland. In 1858 the family came to the States and stopped a while with William Rice, who had previously settled in section nineteen, Canton township. Then they went to Burr Oak, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the parents both died. Thomas, the subject of this sketch, worked for his father on the farm and attended school in Burr Oak one year. After attaining the years of manhood, he and his brother, David, each received a half of a farm of 160 acres which their father had purchased in Freemont township, Iowa. There Thomas carried on agricultural pursuits and reared his fine family. In 1905 he retired and moved to the village of Canton. His life has been an active and useful one, and he is remarkably well preserved for one who has done hard labor for so many years. His wife, who was formerly Margaret Patterson, was born July 4, 1841. They have had seven children: Alfred (deceased), Earl, James B., Margaret, Thomas L., Stephen O. and William P. Earl is a physician of Roland, Story county, Iowa. He married Minna Willford, and they have two children: Earl R. and Minna Ione. James B. lives on the home farm in Fremont, Iowa. He married Jennie Milne, and they have four children: Walter, Margaret, Maude and James. Margaret graduated from the Albert Lea College, taught four years in Tennessee, and is now teaching in Carlton, Ore. Thomas L. graduated from the University of Iowa, and is practicing dentistry at Ames, Iowa. He married Harriet McCarthy. Stephen O. lives in Portland, Ore. He married Selma Bergerin, and they have one son, Stephen. William P. lives in Canton. He married Genevieve Armstrong, and they have four children: Viola, Alegra, Alfred and Remona.

**James C. Russell**, a well-known farmer of Canton township, was born in upper Canada, May 14, 1851, and at the age of three months was taken by his parents to St. Lawrence county, New York. His mother later married a Charles Cater. When James was twelve years of age the family, consisting in all of twelve members, came west, and reached La Crosse in the fall of 1863, making most of the trip by boat. From La Crosse they crossed the river to La Crescent, in Houston county, and continued the trip by wagon to Elliot, in this county. Here the step-father rented a farm. James was reared on this farm and in time, seeing the need of a better education, went to La Crosse two years to school. Then he taught school in Houston county two terms, and in the winter of 1876 took charge of the Nupson school in Harmony township. March 22, 1876, he married Mary Jane Rice, daughter of William and Hannah (Bursell) Rice, who were then living on the land which they had pre-empted in section eighteen. Mr. Russell purchased this land from Mr. Rice, and Mr. and Mrs. Rice moved to Brookings, S. D., where Mr. Rice died in January, 1891, Mrs. Rice being still alive and in her seventy-fifth year. When Mr. Russell took the Rice farm, the original "groute" house was still on it. In 1898 he erected a fine frame house and numerous outbuildings. The place now consists of 160 acres, and here Mr. Russell carries on farming on a successful scale. The Russell home has been blessed with nine children: Verna S., who married George Tuttle and lives in Montana; Vida, the wife of P. E. Wertman, of Bradley, S. D.; Victor, living in Canton; Hubert V., now in Minneapolis; Harvey W., living in Canton; Eugene W., living at home; Hannah E., Stephen J. and Lillian M., also living at home. Mr. Russell is much respected, and the family is well regarded throughout the community.

**J. C. Rice**, one of the estimable farmers of Canton township, was born about thirty miles from Montreal, province of Quebec, Canada, April 20, 1836, son of Thomas and Mary (Cobine) Rice. In 1856 he came to the States and pre-empted land in section seventeen, Canton township. On account of the so-called "sink-holes" on his farm he soon traded for a portion of his present place in section nineteen, where he built his home and erected the necessary outbuildings. Probably no other man could be found in the town of Canton who began life with so little and accomplished so much. He came here with practically no means, and by hard work and good management has become the owner of 325 acres of fine farming land, every acre of which is under cultivation, and on which are splendid buildings. The particular pride of the farm is a fine herd of Poll-Angus cattle. Mr. Rice was married March 15, 1861, to Catherine Bursell, whose father

was a native of England. She obtained her education partly in Canada and partly at the old Willford school in section twenty-five, Canton township. Mrs. Rice, then Miss Bursell, started teaching school in the Henderson district in Preston in 1857, being the first teacher in that district. Mr. and Mrs. Rice are the parents of five children: Thomas, Etta, James H., Emery W. and Garwood. Thomas, who conducts the home farm, married Hattie Bursell, now deceased. They had two children: Elsie L. and Eugene P. James H. married Eva Fay and they have three children: Hazel M., Vernon N. and Stanley F. Emery married Edna Casterton.

**Emery W. Rice**, a progressive farmer of Canton, was born in the same township on section twenty-nine, January 24, 1875, son of J. C. and Catherine (Bursell) Rice. He was born and reared on the home farm in Canton, obtained his early schooling in district twenty-one, and after he was married bought a farm of eighty acres in section thirty, which he is still operating. His wife, Edna J., is the daughter of Josiah and Jane (Kerr) Casterton. Mr. Rice is a member of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., and of the Yeoman.

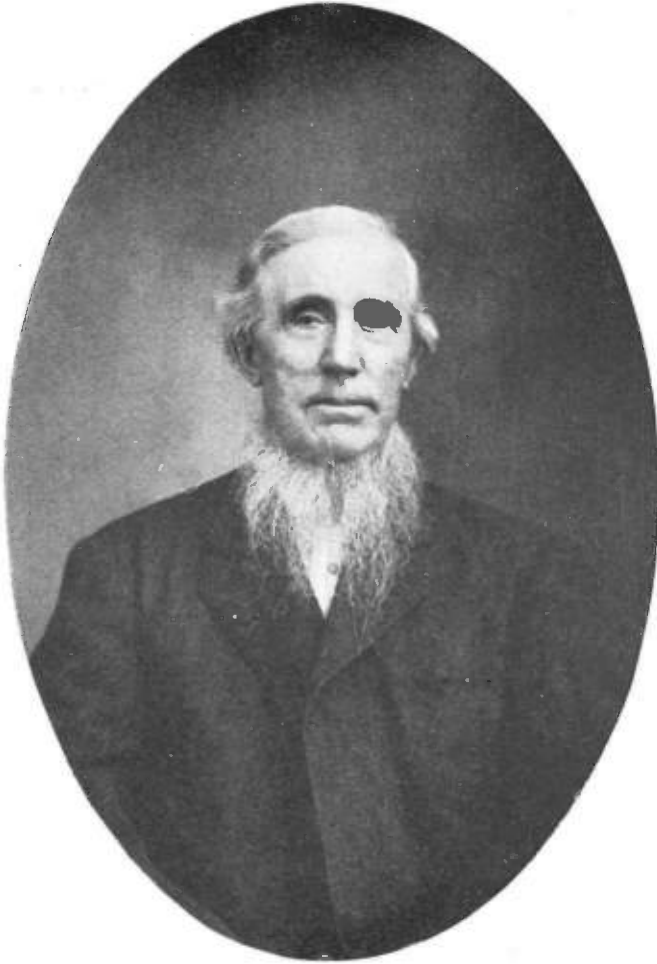
**Martin Paulson**, who is successfully conducting his model farm in Canton township, was born in Toten, Norway, May 29, 1852, and came to America in 1868, locating in Norway township, Fillmore county, where he first worked for his sister and later for a Mr. Kasberg, in all a period of seven years. In 1878 he married Isabel Smestad, a native of Norway, born March 15, 1859. They moved to Preble and purchased a farm in the northwest corner of section five, where they lived fifteen years. In 1894 they moved to Canton and purchased the Holmes' farm in section eleven. Mr. Paulson at once began to improve this place. He erected a fine large brick house, with suitable barns and outbuildings, bringing the brick from Mabel. It is now the most substantial and home-like place in the township, and the passerby cannot resist stopping to look and admire. The farm embraces 291 acres all in a high state of cultivation, excepting some sixty acres. In addition to this Mr. Paulson owns eighty-seven acres in the town of Newberg and 232 acres in Winneshiek county, Iowa. The family faith is that of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Mr. and Mrs. Paulson are the happy parents of nine children: Lena M., Helma C., Frederica, Matilda, Petra E., Fred (deceased), Clarence, Edwin and Esther M. Lena married William Harris and they have three children, Elma, Irvin and Wilmer. Helma C. married George Turnball and they have one daughter, Nellie, aged six years. Frederica married Charles McMillen. Matilda is



MR. AND MRS. EMERY W. RICE



MR. AND MRS. JOSIAH CASTERTON



JOSIAH CASTERTON



the wife of Ole Molstad, and they have three children: Harold, Fred and Owen. Petra E. married Rolf McMillen, and they have one daughter, Ruth Elvina.

Josiah Casterton, who has resided in Canton township for the past forty-seven years, was born in Rutland county, England, August 9, 1832, son of Zacariah and Jane (Ogden) Casterton, with whom he lived until 1856, when he came to America, locating a time in Rockford, Ill. Two years later he took up his residence near Hesper, in Winnishiek county, Iowa, where he lived with his brother, Ogden, until February 27, 1864, when he married Jane Kew. The young couple then came to Canton township, and bought the Stillman Demary farm of 100 acres in section thirty-one. They moved into a "grout" house and made that their home, until with the progress of time a more modern dwelling was erected. Here the subject of this sketch still resides. He is an unusually well preserved man for his age and a splendid type of the sturdy old English stock. His friends are looking forward to celebrating his eightieth birthday on August 9, 1912. In the Casterton family were nine children: Henry J. (deceased), Alice, Eugene, Frank, Walter J. (deceased), Willard J., Florence, Lester O. and Edna J. Henry J. married Prudence Reid, who is living in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Alice is the wife of Henry Manuel, and they have seven children. Eugene married Maggie Snell, and they have two children. Willard J. lives in Canada. Florence is the wife of R. J. White, and they have two children. Lester O. married Mary Skella, and they live in Prosper, and they have three children. Edna J. married Emery Rice. Frank married Rebecca Bryant, a native of Iowa.

Frank Casterton, a progressive young farmer of Canton, was born in Iowa, son of Josiah and Jane (Kew) Casterton. He attended school in district twenty-five, and has spent all his life on the home farm, with the exception of several years spent in Iowa, where he worked for a relative for a time and where he also worked a farm east of Hesper in partnership with his brother, J. W. In 1903 he purchased the home farm from his father, who now makes his home with him. He married Rebecca Bryant, a native of Iowa, and they have a well-cherished, well-kept home.

Martin Abrahamson, a substantial farmer of Canton township, was born in Decorah, Iowa, January 10, 1868, son of Peter and Larena (Hegg) Abrahamson, who came from Dramman, Norway, in the early fifties and located in Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin, where they lived for a time, afterward moving to Decorah, Iowa, where the mother died in July, 1874. In 1876 the father

moved to Le Roy township, Mower county, this state, and thence to Lanesboro, in this county, later, in 1880, coming to Canton township, settling in section thirty and living here some two years until about 1882, when he went to Ransom county, North Dakota, where he died. Martin attended the public schools and also the Breckenridge Institute, at Decorah, Iowa. He was thrown on his own resources at an early age, and since then has made his own way in the world. About fourteen years ago he acquired his present farm of 160 acres in section twenty-eight, Canton township. This is one of the best places in the town, and all except some ten acres of timber land is under cultivation. The dwelling is a fine roomy building, and the barns are large and commodious. The place is devoted to general farming in all its branches, but a specialty is made of pure bred Aberdeen Angus cattle. The subject of this sketch married Louisa Romgnalson, who was born near Lanesboro, in this county, and this union has been blessed with three children: Earl A. C., Lyle M. and Gayheardt F. They are members of the Greenfield Lutheran Church.

J. G. Brufloft, a prosperous farmer of Canton township, was born in Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin, March 9, 1853, son of Gunnuf and Liv Brufloft, who came to America in 1851, located in Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin, stayed there four years, then moved to Hesper, Iowa, remained there one year, and then settled in section six, Canton township, this county, where the father and mother spent the remainder of their days, the father dying in 1886 and the mother in 1892. J. G. was reared on the farm where he still resides. He attended school in district 140, and has always devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits. The farm comprises 100 acres of land, sixty acres in Canton and forty acres in Harmony. The old original log cabin still stands on the farm, but near by is the fine modern house erected by the subject of this sketch in 1903. The farm is in a high state of cultivation, and the buildings are ample and well-kept. It is interesting to note that the subject of this sketch was baptized in the first Norwegian Lutheran Church built in America. It was then located in Muskego, Wis., but has since been removed log for log to the grounds of the Augsburg Seminary, midway between St. Paul and Minneapolis, where it is preserved as a valuable historic memento. J. G. Brufloft married Lizzie Larson, a native of Norway, and they have nine children: Gerhard T., Leonard E., Martin T., Henry O., John L., Tillie, Ida, Julia and Helma. Gerhard T. married Anna Adams, and lives in Bay City, Mich. Leonard E. married Minnie Johnson, and lives in Decorah, Iowa. Martin T. is the leading jeweler of Harmony. He married Thea Bakke and has one daughter, Lucille Bernedine, and one

son, Maurice Trueman. Henry O. is associated with his brother, Martin. The rest are at home. Ida is a music teacher at Harmony in the music store connected with M. T.'s jewelry store.

William J. Armstrong, now deceased, an early pioneer of Canton township, was born in County Cork, Ireland, December 3, 1822. As a youth he went to England, and there married Emily Cavanaugh, who was born in Ireland October 22, 1822. It was in England that their first child, Thomas F., was born. The parents and this son came to America in 1845 and located in Philadelphia, where they remained until coming to Minnesota. On September 13, 1854, they took up their residence on section thirty-three, Canton township. Here Mr. Armstrong built a log house and proceeded to break, cultivate and improve the land. In time he erected a frame house, and comforts and luxuries began to replace the deprivations of pioneer days. Mr. Armstrong died March 9, 1879. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Armstrong, moved to the village of Canton and lived with her daughter, Maria, until her death, September 8, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were the parents of thirteen children: Thomas F., William J., Annie, John L., Mary E., Emily, Emmett, Maria T. Joseph C., Katie, Benjamin, Winnie and Elizabeth. Thomas F. lives in Ladysmith, Wis. William J. lives in Canton, this county. Annie is now Mrs. Lewis Kimball. John L. lives in Randolph. Mary E. is the wife of Wallace Douglass. Maria T. lives in the village of Canton. She has always manifested an interest in the preservation of the family record and has supplied the data for this sketch. Joseph C. lives in Canton. Winnie is the wife of William Knox. Emily, Emmett, Katie, Benjamin and Elizabeth are dead.

Horace P. Mitson, who is successfully conducting a harness and saddlery shop in the village of Canton, was born in Sherbrook, ninety miles from Montreal, province of Quebec, Canada, October 26, 1852, son of Peter Mitson, a native of England, and Isabel (Adams) Mitson, a native of Canada. In 1856 the family came to the States and located thirteen miles southwest of Cresco, in Howard county, Iowa. In 1866 they moved to section thirty-four, Canton township, this county. There Horace P. attended school in district twenty-four and grew to manhood. After attaining adult years he operated a farm in Clayton township, Mower county, Minnesota, three years, and then engaged in the harness business in Taopi, in Mower county, where he conducted a shop for three years. In 1885 he came to Canton and opened his present establishment for the manufacture and sale of harnesses and other leather goods and driving equipment. He is one of the substantial men of the community and has allied himself

with Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M. He married Frances Van Allen, a native of Canada, and they have two children: Leslie G. and Florence L. Leslie is teaching in Lewisville, Minn., and Florence is teaching in district twenty-six, Canton township.

**Lars Michaelson**, a well-informed farmer living in the township of Canton, was born in Norway December 23, 1849, and came to America in 1871. After stopping at Lanesboro a short time, he came to Amherst and worked three years for Peter Sanderson. Then he moved to Washington Prairie, Winneshiek county, Iowa, and worked for E. Solon five years. Subsequently he returned to Fillmore county and worked for Knute Knutson in Amherst one summer and for Anthony Christianson one year. Next he was employed by a Mr. Toffersart in Canton a year. Finally he purchased a farm in section twenty-six, Canton township, which he operated fifteen years. In 1899 he purchased a farm from Edward Wicks in section eleven, where he now resides. The farm consists of eighty-six acres of land, all under cultivation, and in addition to this Mr. Michaelson owns ten acres of timber land in section eleven. He married for his first wife, Mary Knutson, and five children were born: Otto, James, Bennie, George and Morris. The present Mrs. Michaelson was Petra Seierstad, a native of Norway, but for some time a resident of Preston. There, as in Canton, she is known for her sterling qualities, and is well liked and favorably known by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

**Lewis Kimball**, now deceased, exerted an influence on the life of Canton for many years and, dying, left a goodly heritage of honor and integrity to his family. He was born in Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, May 11, 1841, son of Plummer and Judith (Kimball) Kimball, who were born near Mt. Kearsage, N. H., and located in Kane county, Illinois, about 1835, spending the remainder of their years there. After their death, Lewis came to Canton township, this county. At the outbreak of the Civil War, when he was in his twenty-first year, he enlisted in Company C, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the hostilities in 1865, when he was honorably discharged. Upon his return to Canton he lived with "Aunt Polly" Kimball until his marriage, when he purchased a farm in section 32, on which he erected a log house. This was replaced by a frame dwelling about 1900. He devoted his life to farming, and died September 10, 1908. He was married January 22, 1868, in the Roman Catholic Church at Decorah, Iowa, by Rev. T. M. Lenahan, afterward bishop of Cheyenne, Wyo., to Annie, the daughter of William and Emily (Cavanaugh) Armstrong, who was reared

on her father's farm in section thirty-three, Canton township, and attended school in Elliota. Her union with Mr. Kimball was blessed with six children: Loretta, deceased; Lewis, deceased; Emily, deceased; William, a mail carrier; Annie L. and Lewis F., living at home. Since her husband's death the home farm has been capably conducted by Mrs. Kimball.

**James Donald**, who was prominent in the official life of Canton township, and whose death on December 8, 1911, was sincerely mourned by the entire community, was born in Scotland April 27, 1843, son of Archibald and Elizabeth (Young) Donald. He was reared on the home farm in Canton township, to which place he was brought by his parents in 1852. After his marriage to Victoria Harriet Peard, of Winnesheik county, Iowa, he bought land adjoining his farm in section thirty-four, Canton township, and there erected a fine home, where he reared his family. He prospered with the years and in time increased his holdings to 500 acres, practically under cultivation, except 120 acres of timber land. In time he erected a full complement of outbuildings, well in keeping with his home, and the place is regarded as a model one in every particular. For many years the owner made a specialty of breeding Aberdeen Angus cattle, and was also interested in breeding Shropshire sheep. At various times for thirty years he served on the town board of supervisors, and some years before his death he became a member of Canton Lodge, No. 194. A. F. & A. M. In the Donald home were six children: Mary E., who is a teacher; William P., who lives on a farm of 200 acres in Hesper township, Winneshiek county, Iowa; Fred J., who lives on his farm of 240 acres in Burr Oak township, Winneshiek county, Iowa; Earl R., Iva J. and Archibald G., who are at home. Earl R. and Archibald G. conduct the home farm.

**Archibald Donald**, a pioneer of 1852, was born in Scotland, and in early life became interested in agricultural pursuits, being given charge of an estate in the Highlands of his native country. He was married to Elizabeth Young, and in 1850 they came to America and for a time located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, later living in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1852. In May, 1852, they came to Minnesota and located on section 36, Canton township. Here on January 7, 1853, their youngest son David was born. The claim is made by many historians that he was the first white child born in Canton township, and the second born in Fillmore county. Archibald Donald first took 160 acres of land which he broke, grubbed and developed, building a log cabin and carrying on general farming. He added to his land from time to time, until he had 445 acres in

the home place and 160 acres in section 32. While on a business trip to Preston in March, 1865, he was drowned in crossing the Root river near Preston. His wife passed away several years later. They were the parents of five children, Archibald, James, William, Jane and David, of whom all are deceased except David.

David Donald, who first saw the light of day on the farm where he now lives, is said to have been the first white child born in Canton township, and the second white child born in the county, the date of his nativity being January 7, 1853. He received his education in the district schools, after which he took up farming on the home farm, where he remained until he was married in 1879, after which he purchased 100 acres of land in section 35, Canton township, and engaged in farming for himself for a period of four years, after which he returned to the old homestead, where he has followed general farming in a systematic manner ever since. He has a fine dwelling house and a complete set of outbuildings, and the farm is a model place in every particular. His 350 acres of well-tilled and fully developed land, show thrift and enterprise, and bespeak of the ability of their owner. For several years he was much interested in the breeding of Poll-Angus cattle and of Norman and Clydesdale horses. Mr. Donald is a man of good sound judgment and far-sightedness. His honor and integrity have won for him a high standing in the community where he was born and where he has lived all his life. Some years ago he retired from the activities of farm life, and his place is now successfully conducted by his son-in-law, Allen Whitset. The subject of this sketch was married December 25, 1879, to Eliza Jane Frego, daughter of Godfrey Frego.

Godfrey Frego was born in Waskinonge, Quebec, February 17, 1840. At the age of fourteen he was thrown on his own resources. May 2, 1860, he married Mary E. Bates. In 1864 they came to Canton, this county, and purchased a farm of 336 acres. For two years he rented this farm, and devoted his time to buying and shipping live stock. After this he devoted his years to farming his land. He is dead and his wife lives in Canton village. They had five children: Eliza J., George E., Murray I., Hiram W. and Myrtie May.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald were the parents of two children, Mary F. and Mabel C. Mary F. was born August 13, 1882, and is the wife of Allen Whitset, of Canton township. Mabel C. was born January 24, 1887 and married Earl Rolens, D. D. S., of Spirit Lake, Iowa, where they now live. Mrs. David Donald was an artist of ability and the paintings in the Donald home show talent, training, and a truly esthetic appreciation of art values



MR. AND MRS. B. H. BENSON AND DAUGHTER



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM DONALD



as well as a technical mastery of the brush. She passed away March 11, 1912, largely mourned and greatly missed not only by her family but by a great host of friends.

**William Donald**, deceased, was a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, born February 17, 1845, son of Archibald and Elizabeth Donald, whose biographies are to be found elsewhere in this work. William came to America with his parents in 1850 and lived for a short time in Wisconsin. From there they came with a team and covered wagon, locating one mile east of the present town of Prosper, Fillmore county, where they lived for several years. After the death of his father who was drowned in Root river in 1865, William settled on a farm in section 35, Canton township. Here, for many long years, he combated with adverse circumstances, but his courage never faltered and success at last crowned his efforts. To his original small farm, he added until he eventually became the owner of 655 acres, 230 of which were located across the state line, in Iowa. Mr. Donald erected the fine home, which now stands on the farm, and also put up good barns and other outbuildings. He was ever actively interested in all movements which tended toward the development and improvement of both town and county and became one of its foremost citizens. When the State Line Bank of Prosper was organized, he was chosen its vice-president and in this capacity served with credit until his death. After his death Mrs. Donald was chosen vice president in his stead. He was one of the organizers of the Prosper Creamery, and was generally recognized as a man possessing great executive ability. His death, which occurred December 14, 1911, was a shock to all and a great loss to the county and especially to the community where he had so long resided. Mrs. Alice (Babcock) Donald, his wife, was born in Dexter, New York, in 1865, daughter of Kendrick and Caroline (Edgerly) Babcock, natives of New York and Maine, respectively and of English descent. These worthy people came to Minnesota January 1, 1869, and engaged in farming in Canton township. The father died December 14, 1882 and the mother May 8, 1902. They were parents of three children, Frank, of Englevale, North Dakota, Mrs. Mary Bowerman, of Oakes, North Dakota, and Mrs. William Donald, of Canton. Mrs. Donald was given a good education and for several years before her marriage to William Donald, taught school. For nine years she was clerk in the store of R. H. Baker of Prosper.

**Bennie H. Benson**, a modern agriculturist of Canton, was born in section 30, Harmony township, this county, April 7, 1876, son of Even and Gunvor (Homme) Benson. He was reared on

the home farm in Harmony, and there remained until twenty years of age, when he entered the employ of Ole N. Thundale, of Harmony. There he clerked for a year and was then received into partnership by his employer, for the purpose of opening a store in Greenleafston, which was put in charge of Mr. Benson. The partnership terminated at the end of four and a half years, and the subject of this sketch then turned his attention to teaching, taking charge of schools in York, Bristol, Harmony, Canton and Preble. After four years in this profession he started farming, purchasing a fine place of 97 acres in sections 17 and 18, in Canton township. Here he has since lived and prospered. He married Isabel, the daughter of Nels and Anna (Thompson) Thundale, and this union has been blessed with one child, A. N. Genoer, born June 4, 1909. Mr. Benson is a Democrat and attends the Lutheran church.

**Ole Benson**, a young and progressive farmer of Harmony township, was born in the township where he still lives, December 18, 1880, son of Even and Julia, or Gunvor (Halvor) Benson. He spent his boyhood on the farm, and attended the school of district 39, supplementing this with a term at the Southern Minnesota Normal College at Austin, Minnesota. In 1908 he married Kate Farney and they have one child, Viola Emma Glendora, not quite three years of age. Mr. Benson's farm comprises 160 acres all under cultivation. He makes a specialty of raising Aberdeen-Angus cattle. Mr. and Mrs. Benson are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

**Halvor E. Benson**, a capable farmer of Harmony, was born in section 30, July 25, 1869, son of Even and Gunvor Benson, the old country name being Haugum. Halvor E. attended school in district 39 and one term at Breckenridge College, Decorah, Iowa, and lived at home until he was married. Then he bought a farm in section 21, where he is now living. His farm comprises 160 acres all under cultivation. He has a fine home and spacious outbuildings, making the place appear very attractive. The subject of this sketch married Tilda Filland, March 18, 1897, and they have six children: Elven T., Arnold G., Roy J., Geneva E., Mildred O., and Alice M.

**Even Benson**, a retired farmer living in Harmony village, was born November 20, 1837, in Valley Sogn, Sattersdalen, Norway, where he was commonly known as Haugum. He, his good wife, whose maiden name was Julia or Gunvor Homme, came to America in 1861, and stayed the first year in York township, this county, with a sister. In 1862 they came to Harmony township

and located in section 30, where Even built a log house. He prospered with the years, and bought more land until he acquired in all 400 acres. In 1874 he built a comfortable frame dwelling and in 1893 sold the place to three of his sons, Eddie, Bennie and Ole. Then he bought eighty acres one mile from Harmony, known as the Charles Thompson farm. In 1908 he sold this farm to his son-in-law, O. N. Thundale, and moved to Harmony, where they still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Benson have had eleven children: Bjorm, born July 10, died October 3, 1862; Betsy, born February 5, 1864, now Mrs. O. N. Thundale; Belle, born January 11, 1866, now Mrs. Christ Woldal; Bjorm, born September 22, 1868, died September 29, 1868; Halvor, born July 25, 1869; Bjorm, born November 1, 1871, died April 28, 1873; Eddie, born December 20, 1873; Bennie H., born April 1, 1876; Gusta, born August 27, 1878; Ole, born December 18, 1880; and Bjorm, the youngest.

O. A. Kibbe, M. D., one of the successful physicians of Canton and vicinity, was born in Hampton, Iowa, September 6, 1880, son of Anson J. and Elizabeth (Carroll) Kibbe, and grandson of Anthony Kibbe. The grandfather moved from Wisconsin to Hampton, Iowa, in an early day, and there the father was reared and lived, he being a carpenter and a farmer. The subject of this sketch attended the graded schools and the high school of Hampton, and then entered the University of Minnesota, studying there from 1901 to 1905. After receiving his degree and the necessary hospital practice he located in Harmony, in this county. Three years later he came to Canton where he is still practicing. Dr. Kibbe is a member of Canton Lodge, No. 149, A. F. & A. M. He married Corrine, the daughter of Amos L. and Lottie (Davis) Broughten and they have two children: Charlotte E. and Mary E.

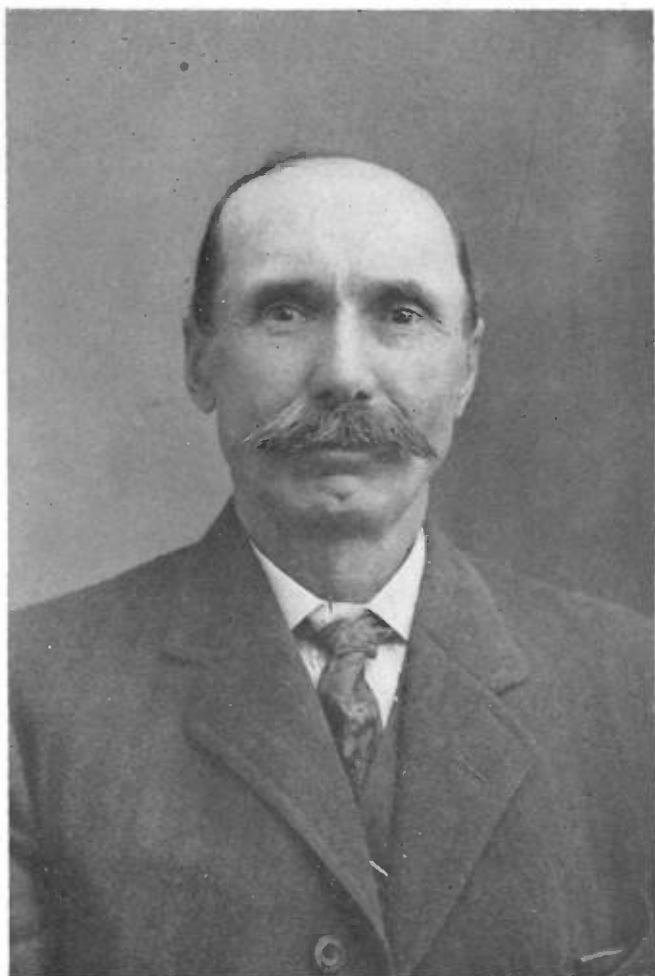
Edmund H. Jacobson is a successful farmer of Canton township, where he was born August 3, 1864, son of John and Anne (Bergan) Jacobson. He was reared on the farm, received his education in the school of district 19, and has always lived on the home place which he now owns. His farm of 245 acres is one of the finest in Canton, and he also owns a ten-acre timber claim. The dwelling house is large and homelike, and the out-buildings for the housing of stock, produce, implements and tools are commodious and well arranged. The house was erected some thirty-five years ago. So well improved is the farm, and so well-kept the buildings and the surroundings, that the place is noticeable to the passerby as a model country estate. Mr. Jacobson married Sarah C. Stedgee, daughter of Ole and Anna (Jerdie) Stedgee, and they have two bright children, Selmer E. and Orrin J., who are attending the same school that their father went

to when he was a boy. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Henrytown. Mr. Jacobson is an Independent voter and member of Canton Lodge, No. 214, I. O. O. F.

**Theodore J. Eames**, now deceased, was prominently identified with the earlier history of Fillmore county. He was born in Oneida county, New York, October 14, 1828; and was married November 15, 1849, at Amherst, Loraine county, Ohio, to **Emeline E. Onstine**. In 1854 they came to the village of Lenora and settled in section 10, Canton township. Soon afterward, while still retaining this land, he moved to Preston and engaged in the mercantile business, in 1857, with a man named Holton for a partner. The times were hard and the people were poor, and after giving all the trust they possibly could, the partners, after a period of three years, sold their stock at auction, and gave up their business. Mr. Eames then took charge of the Stanwix Hotel, now the Tibbetts House, and operated that place for a year. Then he returned to his farm at Lenora, and farmed until 1869, when he took his family to Louisville, Denton county, Texas, where he died the following year. The family remained in Texas until 1878 when they moved to Wichita, Kansas. From there they moved to Nebraska. In 1896 they returned to Canton, where Mrs. Eames, a daughter of the pioneer Henry Onstine, and her son, Floyd, are still living. The farm consists largely of fruit land, of which Floyd makes a specialty. Mr. and Mrs. Eames are the parents of six stalwart sons: **Havilah H.**, of Texas; **Marshall F.**, of Grangeville, Idaho; **Glenn E.**, of St. Paul; **Frank G.** of Hillgard, Washington; **Floyd**, of Canton; and **Eugene J.**, living in Maxwell, Nebraska.

**P. F. Eames**, a successful fruit grower of Canton township, has a place in section 17, where he makes a specialty of small fruit, and where his operations are meeting with great success. He is the son of **Theodore J.** and **Emeline E. (Onstine) Eames**, was born at Canton, this county, received a good common school education, and has followed farming all his life. He and his mother live together, and both have taken a deep interest in the affairs of the county in which the husband and father was so prominent a man.

**Dan Burr Norton**, a successful business man of the village of Canton, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, October 8, 1853, son of **John S.** and **Sarah E. (Biglow) Norton**. The family came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in October, 1855, and settled at Burr Oak, thence moving the following spring to Greenfield, where they remained three years. Then they moved



DAN BURR NORTON

to section 21, Harmony township, where they remained until the spring of 1874, and then moved up toward Preston. The subject of this sketch remained on the home farm until the fall of 1876, when he started farming in Bristol township, where he remained four years. Then he pursued farming in Spink county, South Dakota, for two and a half years, after which he returned to Harmony, and remained a year. In the spring of 1886, he moved to Fremont township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he farmed for sixteen years. In 1902 he came to Canton and took up carpenter work. In 1904 he entered into the furniture business which he still continues. Aside from this he is a licensed embalmer, undertaker, and funeral director, with a license to practice in both Iowa and Minnesota. Recently he has added a line of hardware to his furniture business. For two years he served as village treasurer and for a like period as recorder. He is treasurer and past master of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., and treasurer of Canton Lodge, No. 214, I. O. O. F., as well as ex-master of accounts of Canton Homestead, No. 579, B. A. Y., in which his wife is also a member. The subject of this sketch married Rose A. Mosher, who died June 15, 1897, leaving one son, Bertram A. On September 13, 1900, he married Gertrude M. Weighill, and this union has been blessed with five children: Irma Z., Byon O., Christie L., Dean A. and Lila June.

**Frank Wickett**, extensive land owner, real estate dealer and merchant, now residing in the village of Canton, was born in Foxborough, Hastings county, Province of Ontario, Canada, March 6, 1867, son of Emmanuel and Elmira (Mercer) Wickett. They came to the United States in 1883 and purchased a farm on the northeast quarter of section 34, Canton township. Here Frank grew to manhood, attending the Prosper school a few seasons. At the age of twenty-one he engaged in the meat business, in which he still continues. In addition to conducting his market in Canton, Mr. Wickett is actively engaged in the buying and selling of real estate. He has made six separate trips to Alberta, Canada, where in 1899 he purchased an entire section of land, and in which part of the country he also owns 480 acres near the village of Clive. In Canton he owns 160 acres in section 34, eighty acres in section 20, twenty-five acres in section 15, eighty acres in section 10 and eighty acres in section 9. He is an active member of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., as he has been for the past twenty-one years, having at one time been treasurer. He and his wife are members of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Wickett having been worthy matron of the Canton lodge for the past three years. Mr. Wickett is also a member of the M. W. A. The subject of this sketch married Ella K. Sprague,

who died and left two children: Earsie M. and Albert Stanley. Later he married Nellie Kimball, and this happy union has been blessed with six children: Leland W., Harry E., Frank, Donald, Manford and Howard. Mr. Wickett is a Republican and served four years on the village council.

**Noble M. Vail**, a pioneer, and his wife, Lucy M. (Curtis) Vail, came to the United States from Canada in 1857, and located in section 7, Canton township, where they pre-empted land. They lived for a time in a log cabin, but later erected a frame house in which the family lived for fifteen years. In 1885 they sold the farm and moved to the village of Canton, where the subject of this sketch ended his days, February 5, 1889. His wife died January 4, 1903.

**R. N. Vail**, a well known citizen of Canton, was born in Dunham, Canada East, Province of Quebec, April 18, 1847, son of Noble M. and Lucy M. (Curtis) Vail. In 1857, at the age of ten years, he was brought to Canton township by his parents, and spent his youth in section 7. He attended school in district 21, aided his father on the farm, and in time took up farming for himself. In 1885 he located in section 32, and carried on farming for fourteen years. In 1899 he moved to what was then called the Fay farm in section 18, which place he greatly improved, bringing the land to a high state of cultivation, and erecting additions to the house and barns. The place now consists of about 78 acres, practically all of which is under cultivation. The subject of this sketch was married, October 24, 1872, to Eva G. Kimball, daughter of Charles B. and Polly (Kimball) Kimball, and born April 27, 1854. Her parents who were natives of New Hampshire, came to Illinois in 1835 and to Minnesota in 1854, locating in Canton township, where they followed farming the balance of their days, the father dying December 13, 1873, and the mother February 5, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Vail are the parents of five children. Charles R., born December 22, 1879, and Ray N., born October 7, 1884, are at home. Josie G., born November 22, 1887, is a stenographer in Decorah. Nettie E., born July 1, 1890, lives at home and is a music teacher. Loretta, born June 25, 1893, died December 21, 1893. The Vails have taken a prominent part in Masonic circles. Mr. Vail is a member of the Masonic Veterans Association of St. Paul, and is the oldest Mason in the town of Canton. In 1872 he joined the Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., and when Canton Lodge, No. 194, was organized received a demit to the latter lodge. At that time he became senior deacon, serving one year. Then he was junior warden one year, and then was elected worshipful master,

serving for three years. His son, Charles R. has also passed through the chairs of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., and served one year as worshipful master. The son, Ray N., who is also a member of the same lodge, served one year as junior warden, and is now senior warden. All the members of the family affiliate with Canton Lodge, No. 85, O. E. S. Mr. Vail is a desirable citizen in every respect, and his family enjoys a most excellent standing in the community.

**Christopher Busse**, an early settler, now deceased, was born in Prussia, Germany, and there married Louisa Marotz. In 1856, with his parents, his wife, and his nine children, he came to America and lived in Rock Island, Illinois, about two years. Then they came to Canton township, and located in section 27, upon which at that time nothing but a "gronte" shanty had been erected. In this the Busse family lived for several years. In 1881 Mr. Busse erected a frame house, and the necessary out-buildings. On this place he carried on general farming until his death December 24, 1890, his wife passing away November 4, 1903. Of this pioneer family, four sons and two daughters remain, one of whom is Mrs. Louisa A. Cohrs, who furnishes the information for this memoir.

**Mrs. Christopher Cohrs**, whose maiden name was Louisa A. Busse, was the daughter of Christopher and Louisa (Marotz) Busse, born in Prussia, Germany, December 8, 1855. She came to America with her parents, her grandparents, and her brothers and sisters, and lived a while in Rock Island, Illinois, before coming with them to Canton township. Here she was reared, attaining her education in the schools of Canton township, principally in the Donald or Traxler school as it is usually called. She married Christopher Cohrs, and three sons were born. Mr. and Mrs. Cohrs went to live in Preston, where he was employed and where he lived until his death May 24, 1896. Mrs. Cohrs and her three sons, George E., Peter A. and Herman H., are now operating the home farm in Canton. On this farm of 120 acres, which is nearly all under cultivation, they carry on general farming and make a specialty of Poll-Angus cattle.

**Gottlieb Busse** was born in Germany, October 30, 1843, son of Christopher and Louisa (Marotz) Busse. The family came to America in 1856, consisting at that time of the grandfather and grandmother, father and mother and nine children. They lived two years in Rock Island, Illinois, and in 1858 came to Canton, this county, and located in section 27, where Christopher died in 1890 and Louisa in 1893. When the family first came to Can-



ton, they lived in a "groute" house. In 1881 they built a fine frame residence. Gottlieb was reared on the home farm and attended the Traxler school. In 1873, he married Mary A. the daughter of Edward and Mary A. (Moore) Dagen. Mr. and Mrs. Busse are the parents of the following children: William H., Agnes M., Edward C., Ida A., John F., deceased, Eugene R., deceased, and Orvin B. William H. is married and lives near Prosper. Agnes M. married Herbert Fay. They live in Canton, and have one son, Everett C. Edward C. has a farm of sixty-six acres near Carimona. Ida A. is at home. Orvin lives near Preston. John F. died at the age of five years, and Eugene R. at the age of two years.

**Edward Dagen**, now deceased, for some time a resident of Canton township, was born in King's county, Ireland, and came to America at the age of twenty-one years, locating a while in New York. There he married Mary A. Moore, who was born in Uxford county, Ireland, and came to America at the age of sixteen. Their first child, now Mrs. Sarah Sullivan, was born in New York. From there the family went to Cleveland, Ohio, and here seven children were born. Two died when young. When the oldest child was sixteen the family came to Burr Oak, Iowa, keeping a boarding house and moving from place to place in order to accommodate the men working on the railroad which was being constructed from Cresco to Austin. Then the family lived in Austin two years, and subsequently in Burr Oak two years. Then Mr. Dagen purchased 120 acres in section twenty-eight, Canton, from Thomas Armstrong, and here the family lived and prospered for twenty-nine years. Then they moved to Blue Earth, Minnesota, where Mr. and Mrs. Dagen both died, the father passing away in 1906 at the age of eighty-six, and the mother in 1911 at the age of ninety. Their children are: Mrs. Sarah Sullivan has moved from her farm in Blue Earth to Austin; John Dagen is living on a claim in Streater, N. D.; Mrs. Kate Gossman lives in Emmetsberg, Iowa. Her husband is a carpenter by trade. Mrs. Mary A. Busse lives on a forty-acre farm near Canton. Patrick Dagen died when six or seven years of age. Edward Dagen lives on the home farm near Blue Earth. Maggie died when two years old. Mrs. Margaret Dagen lives at Morris, Minn., where her husband is employed in the railroad station.

The information for this sketch is furnished by the daughter, Mrs. Mary A. Busse. She was married in 1873 to Gottlieb Busse, and moved onto her forty-acre farm, on which she has lived for thirty-nine years. On this farm she has prospered and raised garden produce, and, in fact, turned her hand to almost any

honest endeavor which promised assistance in rearing and providing for her family of children. She is a capable business woman and manager, and under her able care her affairs are in a most prosperous condition. The family are members of the Church of the Assumption, at Canton.

**Lars O. Stensgard**, a progressive and sturdy citizen of Canton township, was born in Norway, about four miles north of Christiana, in Bjorke Annex til Naunested Prostegjeld, May 10, 1839. He and his wife, Randi Christopherson, came to America in 1861, making their way directly to Highland Prairie. There Mr. Stensgard failed to find work, so he came to Newburg, Fillmore county, and obtained work from Engbert Baerson in the harvest fields. Then he worked around for some three or four years, after which he took a farm in Newburg on shares. About the year 1868 he bought a farm in sections twenty-three and fourteen, Canton township, from Daniel Fairbanks, and has there continued to reside. The present comfortable dwelling was erected in 1885 and the outbuildings were built some years later. The farm contains some 100 acres, and is in a fine stage of cultivation, being conducted by Martin Stensgard, who makes a home for his father and mother. Mr. and Mrs. Stensgard are the parents of nine children: Olaus, Christian, Gilbert, Louis first and second, both deceased, Mary, Oluf, Laura and Martin. Olaus lives in Canton. He married Lysgaard, and they have three children, Minnie, Laura and Emma. Christian lives in Amherst. He married Betsey Anderson, and they have five children: Roy, Laura, Peter, James and Helen (deceased). Gilbert lives in Canton. Mary married Ole Stone, and they have five children: Laurence, Ruby, Luella, Mildred and a girl not yet named. Oluf lives in Prosper. He married Isabel Breno, and they have ten children: Ella, Leonard, Rena, Agnes, Lela, Olander, Roy, Morris, Ina and Helen. Laura married Oscar Larsrud, and they have one boy, Orrin. Martin married Nellie Evenson, and they have four children: Elvin L., Elmer, Melvin and Helen.

**J. S. Hatlestad**, progressive editor of the "Canton Reporter," was born in Leland, Ill., in 1856, received his education in Marshall College, Wisconsin, read law for several years in the office of Judge C. B. Kennedy, of Canton, S. D., and was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of South Dakota in 1899. That year he was judge of the municipal court of Canton, S. D. But having learned the printers' trade he could not, try as he would, forget the charms of the printing office, and accordingly he took charge of the Worthing (S. D.) "Enterprise," which he conducted most successfully for seventeen years. Then he sold out and came to

Minnesota. He has made the "Reporter" one of the leading papers of southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa, and his editorials have always stood for right and justice and truth. Editor Hatlestad is a firm believer in the Brotherhood of Man, and is a member of the Odd Fellows, Masonic and M. W. A. lodges.

**Rev. Daniel Jones**, pastor of the church and parish of the Assumption, at Canton, and of the church and parish of Nateting the Blessed Virgin, at Harmony, has been a secular priest of the Roman Catholic Church for over thirty-eight years, and has given the best years of his life to the glorious service of the Mother Church. He is a man of sound scholarship and deep piety, tempering justice with mercy, admirably fulfilling the ideal of the village pastor, being in its fullest sense, the spiritual father of his people. He was born in Silver Center, Mich., October 5, 1841, son of Richard and Mary (McLoughlin) Jones, natives of County of Caven, Ireland. He spent his boyhood in his native town and at Yellow Bank, near Keokuk, Iowa. At the age of fifteen, his father's death threw him on his own resources, and for several years he was engaged in various pursuits in order to support himself. He finally heard the call of the church to enter its priesthood, and in 1865 went to Rome, where he was ordained in 1873. During his theological course, he traveled in the Holy Land, Egypt, France and Switzerland. After his ordination he returned to his native land and assumed the pastorate of the Catholic Church at Natchez, Miss. There he remained until 1884, when he came to St. Paul and erected a church at White Bear, where he served two years. He also erected a church at Montview, near the farm of James J. Hill. After two years' service at Watertown, Minn., he came to Fillmore county and took charge of the parishes at Preston and Fountain. In the meantime he served other parishes, and the church at Canton was erected under his efforts in 1889. In 1898 he settled permanently in Canton and took charge of his present parishes. Richard Jones, father of Rev. Daniel Jones, was born in County of Caven, Ireland, and after coming to America engaged in railroad contracting in Michigan, the clearing of the right-of-way and the grading of the roadbed for the Michigan Central from Jackson to what is now Niles, Mich., being done under his supervision. About 1848 he moved to Yellow Bank, near Keokuk, Iowa, and there died in 1856. Mrs. Richard Jones died in 1842.

**Anson C. Seelye**, for many years a notable figure in the village of Lenora, where he conducted the famous old Tavern, was born in Oneida county, New York, May 24, 1819. He was reared on the farm and when twenty-six years of age commenced learning

the moulders' trade. He married for his first wife, Selina Miller, on October 17, 1843. She died in 1852, leaving one child, Emma. For his second wife, Mr. Seelye married on October 18, 1854, Janette S. Washburn, and to this union three children were born: Cora, Frank and Wallace. Anson and Janette S. Seelye came westward in 1855 and located in Rockford, Ill. A year later they came to Canton, in this county, and remained a year. Later he purchased a farm in Preble and lived there several years, subsequently moving to Newburg, where he lived three years. In May, 1877, he purchased the hotel in Lenora and there lived the balance of his days, with the exception of two and one-half years, when he had charge of the Fillmore county poor farm and alms house. He died January 9, 1894. His wife is still living and makes her home with her son, Frank W., in Lenora.

**Frank W. Seelye**, a well known and popular citizen of Lenora, Canton township, this county, was born in Newburg township, August 20, 1865, son of Anson C. and Janette S. (Washburn) Seelye. He received his schooling in district nineteen and grew to manhood in Lenora. He now operates the famous old Tavern, built in 1859. The farm which is conducted in connection with the Tavern consists of eighty-eight acres all under cultivation. Mr. Seelye married Gurena Lund, and they have three children: Ralph, Louise and Ocea. He is an Independent voter, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a stockholder in the Amherst Creamery.

**Leonidas Woodle**, a retired farmer and veteran of the Civil War, now living in the village of Canton, has for many years been an active factor in the progress and development of the county. He was born in Green county, Wisconsin, July 4, 1840, son of Thomas and Rachael (Palmer) Woodle, the Wisconsin pioneers. Leonidas was fourteen years of age when his father died and he was then thrown on his own resources. In 1864 he came to Canton and located on section eight, where he purchased 200 acres of land which had been entered in 1856. On this tract he carried on general farming and dealt extensively in stock until the year 1904, when he moved to Canton village, where he now lives. He enlisted in the First Minnesota Battery, Independent Light Artillery, in 1861, and reinlisted in March, 1864, being honorably discharged July 1, 1865. He displayed his courage and valor at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Corinth, the second battle of Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg, the siege of Atlanta, on the march with Sherman to the sea, and around Richmond. He also participated in numerous battles and skirmishes of minor importance, and was present at the Grand Review in

Washington, the scenes of which he will never forget. Mr. Woodle has been an active, go-ahead man all his life. He is a Republican in politics, and of a progressive temperament, having been instrumental in the organization of the Harmony Creamery, in which he served on the board of directors for a number of years. He secured the money to build the Farmers' Elevator in Canton in 1894, and was president of the company for two years. Up to the time of his retirement in 1904 he was one of the most active workers in the county. The subject of this sketch married Nancy J., the daughter of Jonathan Franklin, and they are the parents of six children: Charles F., of Austin; Allen A., of Castor, Canada; Ernest F., of Canton township; Etta; Leonidas; and Frances (deceased). Charles F. married Luella Hervey, and they have two children, Loren and Dorothy. Allen A. married Nora Vandewauker, and they have one daughter, Trella Ione. Ernest F. married Edith Harsh, and they have four children: Helen, Carroll, Florence and Carmen. Etta is the wife of Roy Norton, and they are the happy parents of twins, Frances and Alton. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Norton live on the old homestead.

Mrs. Leonidas Woodle, who was Nancy J. Franklin, was born in Oswego county, New York, March 7, 1844, daughter of Jonathan and Polly (Near) Franklin, natives of New York state. They came west in 1856 and located in Canton township, where they took a quarter section of land, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits the balance of their days. The mother died February 2, 1896, the father having passed away several years before. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin were the parents of seven children. Harvey lives in Lac qui Parle county, Minnesota. Martha, Emily, Demster and Peter are dead. Nancy Jane married Leonidas Woodle. The youngest daughter is now Mrs. Mary Wiltsie, of Missoula, Mont.

Judge Thomas Woodle and Rachael Palmer, his wife, parents of Leonidas Woodle, were natives of Pennsylvania. They came west to Green county, Wisconsin, in an early day, and there followed agricultural pursuits until 1851, when they removed to Fayette county, Iowa, where Mr. Woodle was elected county judge, and there conducted a store until the time of his death, which occurred in the spring of 1854. He left a family of eight children: Leonidas, of Canton village, Minnesota; Mrs. Martha Dauchey, of Oregon; Mrs. Elizabeth Keenan, of McDonald county, Missouri; Mrs. Cornelia Franklin, of Canton, Minn.; Mary Frances, deceased; Thomas P., of Blue Earth City, Minn.; Isaac M., of Portland, Ore.; and Rachael, who died in infancy. After the death of Mr. Woodle, Mrs. Woodle, with her children, moved



MR. AND MRS. W. T. STEVENS

to Green county, Wisconsin, and there, in the winter of 1855, married Joseph Woodle, a brother of her first husband, and by this marriage was born one child, Joseph, of Oregon, with whom the mother lived until her death several years ago.

**Dr. James M. Wheat**, a pioneer physician, was born in Franklin, Delaware county, New York, April 5, 1825. He was reared on the home farm, received his preliminary education in the district schools and later attended the Delaware Literary Institute. He studied medicine in the Albany Medical College, Albany, N. Y., and graduated in 1853. Thus equipped he came west to Fillmore county in 1856 and located in Lenora, where he commenced the practice of medicine, also teaching school two or three winters. From 1875 to 1877 he was a member of the lower house of the Minnesota State Legislature, and for the next succeeding ten years he was a member of the senate of the same body. While a member of this body Dr. Wheat introduced and secured the passage of a bill forbidding the sale of several millions acres of state lands which were at that time considered of little value, owing to their being swamp lands, but which have now increased wonderfully in value through drainage. The result of this legislation is that a large amount of money has been added to the Minnesota State School fund, which is now probably in the best condition of that of any state in the Union. June 10, 1862, Dr. Wheat was married to Almira E. Foote, of Spring River, Wis. In 1887 Dr. Wheat moved to Redlands, Cal., where for a short time he practiced medicine. In 1891 he was appointed a member of the board of health of the city and was elected its secretary, serving continuously in this capacity until a few months before his death. Dr. Wheat died November 27, 1910. Almira E. Foote was born in the town of Kirkland, Oneida county, New York, August 31, 1836. In 1847 she went with her father's family to live in Spring Prairie, Walworth county, Wisconsin, there remaining until the spring of 1861, when she came to Henrytown, Minn., where she was engaged to teach school for the summer term. The next winter she taught the Lenora school. Her marriage to Dr. J. M. Wheat June 10, 1862, was blessed with two children: Ida M. and James F. Ida M. is a music teacher and lives with her mother in Redlands, Cal. James M. is a real estate dealer and insurance agent, living in Redlands, Cal. Both children were born in Lenora, this county.

**W. T. Stevens**, a prosperous merchant, and for twenty-two years postmaster of the village of Lenora, was born in Concord, N. H., February 17, 1839, son of Jotham and Eliza (Elliott) Stevens. He and his brother, Sherburn, came to Canton township

in 1858, another brother, Lyman, having come in 1855. The subject of this sketch carried on farming and drove a stage. In the spring of 1863 he was made lieutenant in a company of state militia, the commission being signed by Gov. W. R. Marshall, and later he enlisted in Company A, Second Minnesota Cavalry, serving until his discharge in 1866, one year after the close of the war. Then he returned to Fillmore county, and started farming in section thirty-three, Amherst township. After a year he sold out and bought a place in section ten, Canton, where he farmed nearly five years. In 1872 he purchased the store which W. S. Hoyt had established at Lenora, in Canton township. In this business he is still engaged, ably assisted by his wife. March 29, 1883, he received his appointment as postmaster, and served until 1905, when the office was discontinued. Mr. Stevens married Adele, daughter of Demas and Jane (Harmond) Bryant, both natives of Buxton, Me. Mr. Bryant was of English descent and was born in 1801, his death taking place in 1876. Mrs. Bryant was of Scotch descent and was born in 1807, dying in 1900. Mrs. Stephens was born in Kirtland, Ohio, in which place her parents had located in 1833, her father being a carpenter who was employed on the first Mormon temple ever built. She obtained her early education in Kirtland, and there grew to womanhood. Her father enjoyed the unusual distinction of having served on the first board of trustees of the Western Reserve Teachers' Seminary. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens have one daughter, Ida. She married C. E. McKinney, and they live in Decorah, Iowa, their home having been blessed with three children: Harold S., Claire E. and Francis V. Mr. Stevens comes of an old Revolutionary family. His grandfather, Ephriam Stevens, was born in England and came to America with his brother previous to the Revolutionary War, in which he served. He married and reared a family in Golfstown, N. H. There his son, Jotham Stevens, was born, and there also Jotham married Eliza Elliott. In 1862, Jotham Stevens and his good wife, with their two daughters, came west to Canton and took up their home with their son, Lyman. Here Eliza Stevens died in the spring of 1867, her husband, however, surviving her until the spring of 1903, when he, too, passed away, ripe in years and character. Mrs. Stevens is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution from her mother's side, the Harmons. Her great-grandfather, Jonathan Harmon, being in the Revolution. She received the papers of acceptance in April, 1911, her number being 85,483.

Tollef Sanderson, banker and former county official, was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, October 7, 1852, son of Steen and Siri Sanderson, natives of Norway. He attended the district



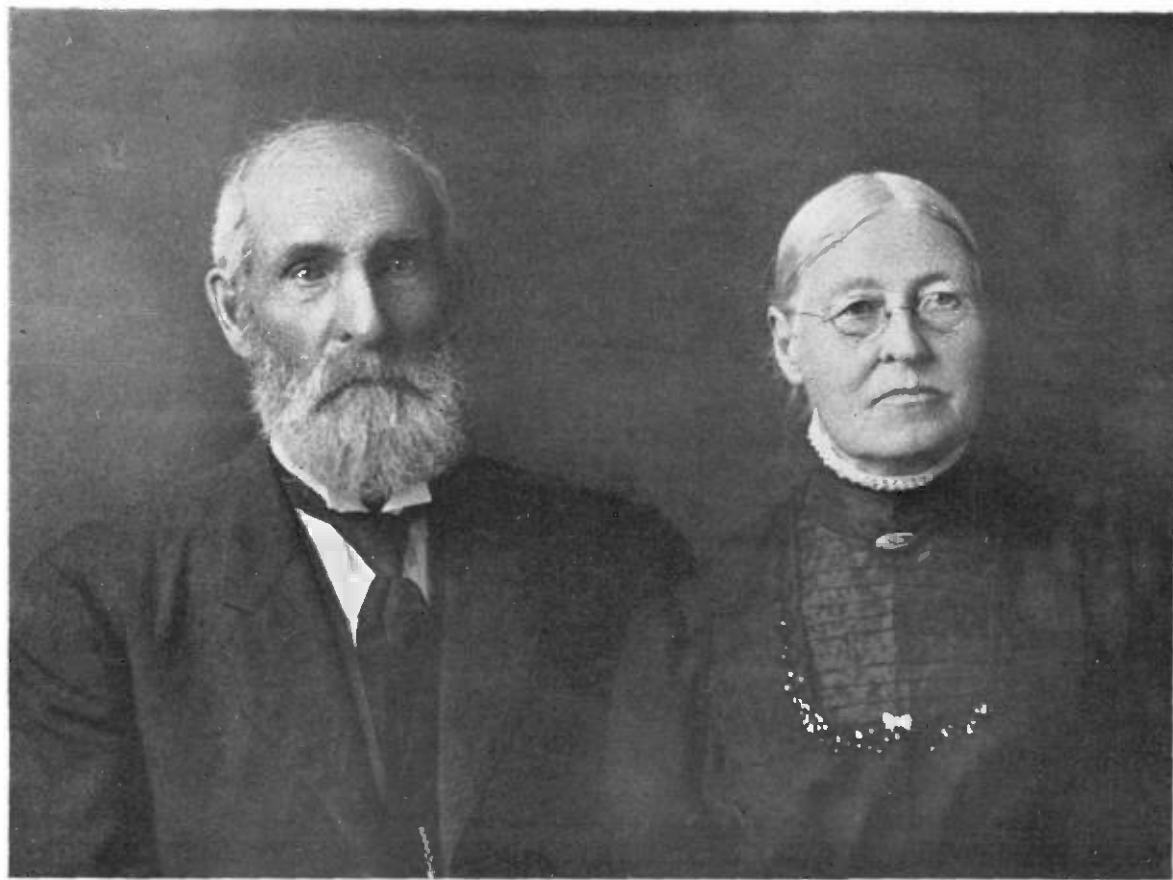
school of his neighborhood and then took a one year's course in Beloit College, Beloit, Wis. In 1869 he came with his parents to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and entered Luther College, at Decorah, Iowa. After this he taught school for a while. Then he took up farming, operating a place in section twenty-seven, Harmony township, for six years, from 1882 to 1888. That year he was elected county treasurer and served four years. In the spring of 1893, after having retired from office, he started the Bank of Harmony, which on June 4, 1904, was incorporated under the name of the Harmony State Bank. Of this institution Mr. Sanderson became the president, a position he has retained to the present time. In 1911 when the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank of Preston was organized he also became president of that institution, a position which his excellent service in Harmony had warranted. At various times Mr. Sanderson has held different local offices. He is a member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church at Harmony. In addition to his banking interests Mr. Sanderson has several real estate holdings in different places. The subject of this sketch was married February 15, 1877, to Ann Sophia Jacobson, and this union has been blessed with five children: Anna, who married Theodore Taraldson, died May 12, 1908, leaving two children, Theodore and Evelyn, who live with their grandparents. Stina Joselma is at home. Elmer died in infancy. Ella is a student at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. Tollef is at home.

Steen and Siri Sanderson, parents of Tollef Sanderson, were born in Hallingdal, Norway, and came to America in 1846, locating with their fellow countrymen near Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin. There they engaged in farming until 1869, when they came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they lived until 1886, when they moved to Harmony and spend their declining years. Steen Sanderson passed away December 13, 1893, and his wife in June, 1890.

D. A. Mosher, chairman of the board of commissioners of Fillmore county, was born in Madison, Madison county, New York, December 21, 1843, son of Martin and Angeline (Alden) Mosher, who in 1850 brought their family to Columbia county, Wisconsin. There D. A. received his boyhood education, remaining on the home farm until 1864, when he located near the Fillmore county line, in Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1886 he located in Harmony township, where he has since continued to reside, owning eighty acres in Fillmore county and 160 acres adjoining in Winneshiek county. This farm he brought to a high stage of cultivation and improvement. In 1892 he retired from farm life and devoted his attention to public affairs and to selling western land. In

former years, Mr. Mosher served in various town offices, and was on the town board eight years, being chairman of that body a greater part of this period. In 1903 he became a member of the county board, and in 1908 was appointed to his present position as chairman, in which office he has done excellent service, having ever the interests of the taxpayers and the progress of the county as his official and personal aim. In addition to his public offices, Mr. Mosher is a stockholder and the vice-president of the Harmony State Bank. The subject of this sketch was married July 4, 1866, to Emma Jacklin, born in Lincolnshire, England, in April, 1844, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe Jacklin, both now deceased. Mrs. Mosher died June 16, 1892. Their union was blessed with four children: Florence, Frances, Angeline and Martin. Florence is the wife of George Easler, of Winneshiek county, Iowa. Frances is the wife of J. A. Rye, of Bucyrus, N. D. Angeline is the wife of John Easler, of Winneshiek county, Iowa. Martin married Mary Kimball and conducts the home farm. Mr. Mosher is of a fraternal nature and has allied himself with Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., and with Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M., and Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T. It is interesting to note that Mr. Mosher, on his mother's side, is a direct descendant of John Alden, being of the ninth generation. He has taken a great interest in early New England history, has joined the Alden Society, and has visited the historic scenes where the early Puritans flourished. Martin and Angeline (Alden) Mosher, the parents of D. A. Mosher, were born in New York state, there married, and in 1850 brought their family to Columbia county, Wisconsin. In 1865 they came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and here Martin Mosher followed his trade as a mechanic. He died November 19, 1879, and his wife March 21, 1902. In the family were six children. D. A. was the oldest. Rosaltha, Henrietta and Nettie are dead. Flora is the wife of John Norton, of Spokane, Wash. Zora, the twin sister of Flora, is dead.

**Peter McKay** was born in Scotland, parish Port of Monteith, Perthshire, on March 11, 1835, son of Alexander and Margaret (McLarin) McKay. He grew to manhood in his native land, there acquired his education, and when twenty-one years of age came to America, making his first home in the United States in the town of Bradford, Rock county, Wisconsin, where he remained for six years. After leaving Wisconsin, Mr. McKay came to Minnesota and settled in section thirty, township of Amherst, where he made his home for many years and engaged in general farming. He married Margaret McNee, daughter of Peter and Margaret (Drummond) McNee, of Scotland, and to them have been born the following: Margaret, now the wife of



MR. AND MRS. PETER MCKAY



WILLIAM JACOBSON

Alexander Ferguson; Peter; Alexander, married to Ada Elder; Mary, wife of Edson Willford; John married to Minnie Thompson and living in Montana; Isabelle, now Mrs. William Shail; George married to Lydia Hahn; Charles married to Jane McNee and residing on the home farm; James and William deceased. Mr. McKay moved into the township of Preston in 1880 and purchased a farm in section twenty-five, where he built a fine stone house and the necessary outbuildings. His farm comprises 400 acres of land and in 1893 he gave the management of this valuable property to his son Charles and moved into the village of Harmony, where he is now living a retired life of well earned leisure, surrounded by many comforts, and possessing many friends. He is a director and stockholder in the First National Bank of Harmony.

William J. Jacobson, an active and progressive farmer and dairyman of Harmony, is a native of this county, born in Canton township, March 4, 1860, son of John and Anne (Bergan) Jacobson. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and spent his times much as other farm boys of his time. He came to Harmony from Canton in 1883 and purchased 140 acres in section eleven which is now within the corporate limits of Harmony village. He has a fine home and suitable outbuildings, and his land is in a high stage of cultivation. The grounds about the house are especially neat and well kept, presenting a scene of prosperity and contentment. The subject of this sketch was married February 8, 1884, to Olena Willburg, and this union has been blessed with three children: Elmer, Walter L. and James L. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. For the past fourteen years Mr. Jacobson has conducted a milk and cream route in Harmony and during that period of time there have been only five days that his team has not been seen on the streets.

Austin Morem, a progressive farmer and respected citizen of Harmony township, was born in that township on October 14, 1868. His parents, Ole and Esther (Nelson) Morem were natives of Norway, the former of whom came to the United States when eighteen years of age and the latter, at ten. They were married in Fillmore county and settled on section twenty, in Harmony township, where they carried on general farming for many years and where the father still lives, the mother having passed away in 1895. Austin, the son was given a common school education and early in life began fitting himself for a farmer. He remained at home working on his father's farm until twenty-six years of age, after which he rented land until he purchased eighty-five

acres in Harmony township, which bordered on the Iowa state line. On this property, Mr. Morem carried on agricultural operations for a period of five years, after which he disposed of it and moved to Wright county, Minnesota. There, he bought 320 acres of good land, which he cultivated and cared for six years, later disposed of, and returned to his former home in Harmony. He purchased 160 acres of Tollef Sanderson in section twenty-seven and here resides at the present. Mr. Morem's home and farm are among the best in the township; he has good substantial outbuildings and a comfortable, attractive house; and the well cared for appearance of his place evidences his thrift and excellent management. Politically, he affiliates with the Republican party, and while a resident of Wright county was elected to serve as supervisor of the town board. On January 15, 1894, he married Betsey Harstad, born in this township February 2, 1872, daughter of Tollef Harstad and wife, the pioneers. To Mr. and Mrs. Morem six children have been born: Anna, born October 31, 1894 (deceased); Arnold, born January 1, 1896; Tillman, born March 18, 1898; George T., May 2, 1902; Anna B., May 26, 1904; Harold A., August 9, 1906. The family are members of the Lutheran church and liberal supporters of that body.

**After Hoag**, one of the earliest pioneers of Harmony township, now deceased, was born in Grand Isle, Vt., in 1809, and married Harriet Goodrich. They later settled in St. Lawrence county, New York, moving in 1843 to Illinois. In May, 1853, they came to Fillmore county, and settled on section thirty-four, near the state line. There, After Hoag followed general farming the remainder of his days, dying April 7, 1875. One of the sons, Calvin, who died in the army, was the first white settler in Harmony township, having come here in 1852, before any surveying was done. He located on the state line. It is interesting to note that four of the sons served in the Union Army. James served in Company H., First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. Seth was in the Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and is now living in Oregon. Ephriam, the youngest, was in the Ninth Iowa Cavalry and died at St. Louis. Calvin served in the Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and died in the army.

**James Hoag** (deceased), many years a resident of the village of Harmony, and one of the earliest settlers of the township, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, May 15, 1838, son of After and Harriet (Goodrich) Hoag. He came with his parents to Illinois in 1843 and to Harmony, May 15, 1853. After he grew to manhood, he purchased 160 acres of government land which he broke and cultivated, and where he kept house for

himself for two years. In 1864 he enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, serving in Company H, until the close of the war. Then he returned to his farm, and continued his agricultural operations. Mr. Hoag married for his first wife, Jane, the daughter of Jason Damon, an early settler of Bristol township. To this union were born five children: Harriet, James, Alice, Burd and Lester. Harriet married Frank Elliott, and they have three children: Amos, Nora and Frances. Amos married Josie Todd and they have one child, Donald. Nora married Fred Dybvik and they have one child, Wilma. Frances lives at home. James Hoag, Jr., living in Oregon, married Etta Udell and they have three children: Lee, Earl and Grace. Alice, now deceased, married George Kohle and they have three children: Lester, Mary, and Elner. Burd, now living on the home farm, married Mary McEvitt, and they have three children: Cleve, Fern and Hazel. Lester is dead. Mrs. Jane Hoag died July 7, 1886, and on February 9, 1887, Mr. Hoag married Eliza A. Smith, daughter of Lorenzo and Adaline (Wade) Smith, who came from Pottsdam, N. Y. Mrs. Hoag has one brother and two sisters. Abner lives in Pottsdam, N. Y. Mrs. Harriet Benson lives in Harmony and Mrs. Sarah Ernst lives in Chatfield. Mr. and Mrs. Hoag lived on the home farm until 1902, when they moved to the village of Harmony, where Mr. Hoag had previously built and furnished a comfortable home. Mr. Hoag died on Sunday, February 25, 1912.

Herbert A. Daniels, mill owner and farmer, was born in Harmony township, section two, September 13, 1863, son of Alonzo and Flavia (Merriek) Daniels. He passed through the usual routine of a boy on a farm, and remained at home and operated the home farm until 1901. Since that time he has resided in the village of Harmony. In addition to his interests in farming he is operating a feed and flour mill. "The Best" is a special brand of flour which he manufactures and which is used extensively throughout this part of the county. Mr. Daniels served as member of the village council four years, two years of which he was president.

Theodore G. Moore, one of the pioneer settlers of Harmony, was born in Marshall, Oneida county, New York, September 22, 1831, son of Nathaniel Ford and Mary (Munger) Moore, natives of Massachusetts. He was brought by his parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the spring of 1851, and remained there for ten years. In the spring of 1861, he came to Harmony township, and settled in section three, where he built a frame house and commodious barns, and where he successfully carried on gen-

eral farming. Mr. Moore is a remarkably well preserved man for his age, still hale and hearty, although his years now number four score. In 1872 he retired from active work. He is an extensive land owner and well known throughout the county. He was on the board of supervisors for many years and has served in other offices of public and private trust and honor, including the presidency for ten years of the Harmony Fire Insurance Company, which he helped to organize. The subject of this sketch was married as a young man, to Rose Hannah Merrick, daughter of Roderick and Rebecca Merrick, by whom he had three children: Addie, Warren F. and Elbert O. Addie died in infancy. Warren F. was born in November, 1859, and devotes his time to farming in Preston township. He married Susie Hart and has three children: Ray, Mildred and Ruth. Elbert O. was born in April, 1875. He married Clara Erickson, and they have three children: Vern, Orrin and Mary Louise. Mrs. Theodore G. Moore died in April, 1906. Nathaniel Ford Moore was born in Massachusetts, and there married Mary Munger, a native of the same state. They moved to New York state at an early day, and settled in Oneida county. In the spring of 1850 they came westward to Spring Prairie, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and remained some years. After the death of Nathaniel F. on August 1, 1852, his wife moved to Milwaukee. In the family were eight children: Helen A. is eighty-five years of age, and lives in Stockton, N. Y. Chapman also lives in Stockton, and is eighty-two years old. Theodore G. lives in Harmony, Minn., at the age of eighty years. Charlotte was drowned in Casadago Lake, New York, Guerette E., aged seventy-three lives in Salem, Oreg. Julia D. died in 1906. John T. died in June, 1911, at the age of seventy years. Jennie died at the age of twenty.

Nicholas C. Vought, residing in the village of Harmony, is the son of Jacob and Margaret (Andrews) Vought, who were married January 22, 1833.

Jacob Vought was born in Westchester county, New York, January 21, 1810, and as an infant was taken by his parents to Orange county, New York, where his father died in 1819 and his mother in 1822. Jacob came to Janesville, Wis., in 1847, and in April, 1853, started for Fillmore county. Upon reaching here he located on a farm near Lenora, but after a short time he selected another claim in the township of Amherst. Mr. and Mrs. Vought were the parents of ten children: James, Andrew, John, Henry, Nicholas, Isabel, Emily, Ella, Mary and Julia. Andrew married Fannie Prescott. He served four years in the Union Army and received a rheumatic affection from which he never recovered.



John also served in the army. He died December 6, 1869. Henry served in the Seventh Minnesota Infantry. Isabel married John Sever. Emily married J. G. Finney. Ella married Frank Newell. Mary became the wife of William Emmons. Julia married J. Turner.

Nicholas was born in Amherst, this county. He was reared on the home farm, attended school in Henrytown, and married Susan, the daughter of John and Susanna (Rice) Stahl, this union being blessed with two children: Harry H. and Julia.

John Stahl, the father of Mrs. Nicholas Vought, was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, February 10, 1823. When he was fifteen years of age he accompanied his parents to Indiana. In 1846 he married Susanna Rice, and in 1856 came with his family to Harmony and settled in section eighteen. Eight children were born to them. Mrs. Stahl died April 26, 1869. For his second wife, Mr. Stahl married Mrs. Alice Barber, who is also now deceased. Mr. Stahl died March 9, 1906.

Mrs. Susan Stahl Vought obtained her schooling in Harmony, Preston and Spring Valley, and started teaching at the age of eighteen. She taught at the Stork school two terms, at Waukeke two terms, in Kennedy district two terms, in the Empire district one term, in the Red schoolhouse one term, at Lenora one term, at Canton one year and also at Forestville, making in all a period of service extending through twelve years.

### The Toilers and the Wheat.

O wheat-field waving wave aft wave, so like a golden sea,  
Best gift that summer-time ere gave, 'mid all her greenery.

Many still, remember well, how round, and 'round,  
Where cradlers went, swath-rows fell, abundant 'long the  
ground.

The lark's song then was just as sweet, as are her notes today:  
Tho dewy brows were binding wheat; they list each wild  
bird's lay.

Once where grew the thrifty wheat, marts we view;  
Their harvests a past our many a street, settlers' winter drew.

The rushing trains supplant toil, of the olden days;  
Thousands of mechanisms foil labor of past days.

The thrasher substitutes the flail, forefathers used:—  
The great fleets never fear a gale;—the world they've cruised!

The use of reapers was not yet, with sickle keen;  
Nor binders placing bundles to be set, with a few paces  
between.

Ah, well revere each whitened head— remembering that day;  
Not only gleaned they for bread, they paved a nation's way.

Of rain or snow they scarce gave thought, and this we know—  
Unceasing, cheerfully they wrought, o'er fifty years ago.

Their cultured wives left eastern homes, of elegance, and ease,  
To toil beneath humbler domes; nor sought themselves to  
please.

A bounteous banquet spread for them, when Old Settlers  
convene:

Are feasting, and annually greeting them, reverse of days  
seen.

For those we twine the garlands fair, who danger braved;—  
Heroes alike are slumbering there, who home or country saved.

Some gone forever, from our band, to battle could not go;  
Many a deed, when our nations need, their kindness did  
bestow.

How fared the mother left at home, with her little brood,  
Except, an elder neighbor came, gathering her grain for food.

Amaranthine wreaths are the just meed, for toilers of long  
ago,  
Who labored for their friend's need, o'er forty years ago.

Gleaning our free lands first gift—were not in vain;  
There-in was honesty, and thrift, garnering the golden grain.  
—Susie W. Vought.

**Tallak Brokken**, a shrewd, substantial and hard working citizen, now deceased, departed this life, November 17, 1910, leaving to his children a goodly heritage of honor and honesty, as well as of lands and property. His career, indeed, was little short of remarkable, and shows in agriculture and business, the great possibilities of our glorious country for a man of pluck, industry and intelligence. He was born in Valle, Satterdalen, Norway, February 3, 1828. He was confirmed in 1842, and spent his early manhood in his native land. But the country of promise beck-



TAILAK BROKEN'S GRANDCHILDREN

oned him, and on April 24, 1853, he and his good wife, Aase, who were married just twelve days before, left Norway for America, landing in New York, August 10. They went at once to Watertown, Wis., where they lived about a year, after which, on July 13, 1854, they came to Fillmore county and settled on 120 acres in sections twenty-one and twenty-two, Harmony township, making the trip in a prairie schooner, drawn by a yoke of oxen, a mode of travel much in vogue in those primitive days. He built a home of logs, broke the land, and worked and planned until the log hut was replaced by a fine dwelling, and the 120 acres was increased to thousands. To this worthy couple, ten children were born. The three oldest died in infancy. The seven living are: Tilda, Isabelle, John T., Julia, Thaddeus T., Amy, and Ole T. These children, in turn, have augmented the family with forty-three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Tilda married George Wralstad; they live at Waupeton, N. D., and have four children. Isabelle married A. Harstad, and they have six children. John T. married Julia Erickson (Solseth) and they have nine children. Julia married Samuel T. Harstad, a farmer, and they have ten children. Thaddeus, who is also a farmer in Harmony township, married Anna Olson, and they have eight children. Amy married Edward S. Haugrud, a farmer, and they have six children. Ole T. married Oline Olson. Tallak Brokken's first wife died September 5, 1894, and in 1895 he was again married, this time to Mrs. Guro Bakken, after which they moved into the village of Harmony, where Mr. Brokken spent the remainder of his days. Mr. Brokken was a man of sound common sense and of strong convictions, and was honored with many offices of a public nature. He served in the legislature of 1876, was one of the organizers of the Greenfield Congregation in the early sixties, and was one of the organizers of the Harmony State Bank, of which he was a director and vice president until his death. Through hard work and excellent judgment, he gained a competency, and is reported to have been one of the wealthiest men in the county, all his holdings having been gained honestly through hard work, good sense and self denial.

The Brokken grandchildren whose group picture appears in this work are: Tilda's children: H. Ingemann, Tallak E., George S., and Elmore Crocker, Wralstad. Isabelle's children: Anna Maline, Tallak Edmund, Ausye Gertrude, Alma Isabella, James Tillman and Tollef Edwin, Harstad. John T.'s children: Ole Theo., Amy R., Tillman A., John J. H., Ruben O., Edwin S., Rebecca A., Orlando B., and Ruth E., Brokken. Julia's children: Amy M., Eugene T., Margaret Stella C., Helmer T., Hilda M., Stephen F., Tilden O., Edella O., and Victoria I. T., Harstad.

Thaddeus T.'s children: Julia A., Sabin T., T. Arnold, Evelin, George M., Ole L., Helma and Irene, Brokken. Amy's children: G. A. Edna, Allen Sherman, Ada Gorda I., Tallak B., Otelia B., and Aurelia G. Hangrud. There is one great-grandchild, Jerome George Wralstad.

**Thaddeus T. Brokken**, a highly esteemed citizen, was born in Harmony township, December 2, 1866, son of Tallak and Aase Brokken, the sturdy old early settlers. He was brought up on the farm, attended school in the "little old red schoolhouse" in district forty, and after he was married went to the farm which his father had prepared for him in section twenty-eight. His well-kept place consists of 240 acres, and his dwelling is comfortable and well furnished. His barns and outbuildings are commodious and furnish ample housing for his stock, grain, tools and implements. Mr. Brokken is well liked in the community, and is a substantial, law-abiding citizen in every respect. Mr. Brokken married Anna Olson, a native of Preston. This union has been blessed with eight children: Julia A., T. Sabin, T. Arnold, Evelin, George M., Ole L., Helma and Irene. Julia is a teacher, and Sabin is assistant cashier in the Harmony State Bank, of which her father is a stockholder. Mr. Brokken was assessor of Harmony township, two terms, and has been a member of the school board for seventeen years. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mrs. Brokken was born in Bristol township, June 30, 1864. Her parents, Samuel and Gertie (Erickson) Olson, came to America from Norway in 1858, and the following year located in Bristol township, where the father still lives, the mother having passed away October 17, 1911.

**John T. Brokken**, a prosperous farmer, was born on section twenty-one, Harmony township, January 29, 1863, son of Tallak and Aase Brokken, the venerable pioneers. He grew to manhood on the home farm, helping his father and attending school in district forty. In 1882 he started farming on his own account on the northeast quarter of section twenty, and kept house for himself until February 24, 1884, when he married Julia, who was born February 12, 1863, on section twenty-four, daughter of Ole S. Solseth, generally known as Ole S. Erickson, one of the early pioneers of Harmony. Mr. Brokken has continued to reside on his farm, and has reared a good family of children. His fine farm of 220 acres is nearly all under cultivation, and in 1905 he erected a fine modern dwelling, which speaks well of his progressiveness and prosperity. His barns and other buildings are in every way in keeping with his house, and Mr. Brokken



MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. BROKKEN

is one of the desirable citizens of the locality, the worthy son of a worthy father. To Mr. and Mrs. Brokken nine children have been born: Ole T., Amy R., Tillman A., John J. II., Ruben O., Edwin S., Rebecca A., Orlando B., and Ruth E. Ole T. and Amy R. and Tillman A., have been efficient school teachers. Amy R. was married March 6, 1912 to William F. Schroeder and they live at Murchison, S. D.

**Samuel T. Harstad**, a modern agriculturist of Harmony township, has resided on his present farm in section twenty-eight, for the past twenty-six years, and has brought it to a high degree of cultivation and improvement. His new home is a beautiful structure, well located, and accompanied by a fine complement of barns and outbuildings. His 207 acres are nearly all under cultivation, and his farming operations are conducted along the latest approved lines. The subject of this sketch was born in Illinois, in 1864, son of Tallef Harstad, who came to America in 1861, and lived in Illinois until 1867 when he brought his family to Harmony township, and remained here until his death in 1907, his wife dying a year later. Samuel T. was reared on his father's farm, and received his schooling at the Rockney schoolhouse. He was married in 1884 to Julia, the daughter of Tallak and Aase Brokken, her father, who recently passed away, being a man of remarkable perseverance and judgment, who by economy and hard work acquired a considerable fortune. Mr. and Mrs. Harstad are the parents of ten children: Amy M., Eugene T., Margaret, Stella G., Helmer T., Hilda M., Stephen F., Tilden O., Edella O., and Victoria I. T. Stella G., is a teacher in the Scotland school.

**A. Harstad**, a respected citizen, was born in Seneca, Ill., June 13, 1862, and came to Harmony with his people in 1867. He grew to manhood in this county, and was confirmed June 3, 1878. His education was received in the common schools, and at the Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Isabelle Brokken, now Mrs. A. Harstad, was born November 16, 1860, in section twenty-one, Harmony township, being the daughter of Tallak Brokken. She was reared on the home farm, was duly baptized, and on June 27, 1875, was confirmed at the Greenfield Lutheran church by Rev. Tobias Larson. Her education was received in the district school at Greenfield. March 10, 1886, she married A. Harstad, the ceremony taking place at the Greenfield Lutheran church, and Rev. Tobias Larson being officiating clergyman. The bridal couple went to reside on section thirty-four, Harmony township, and there their oldest

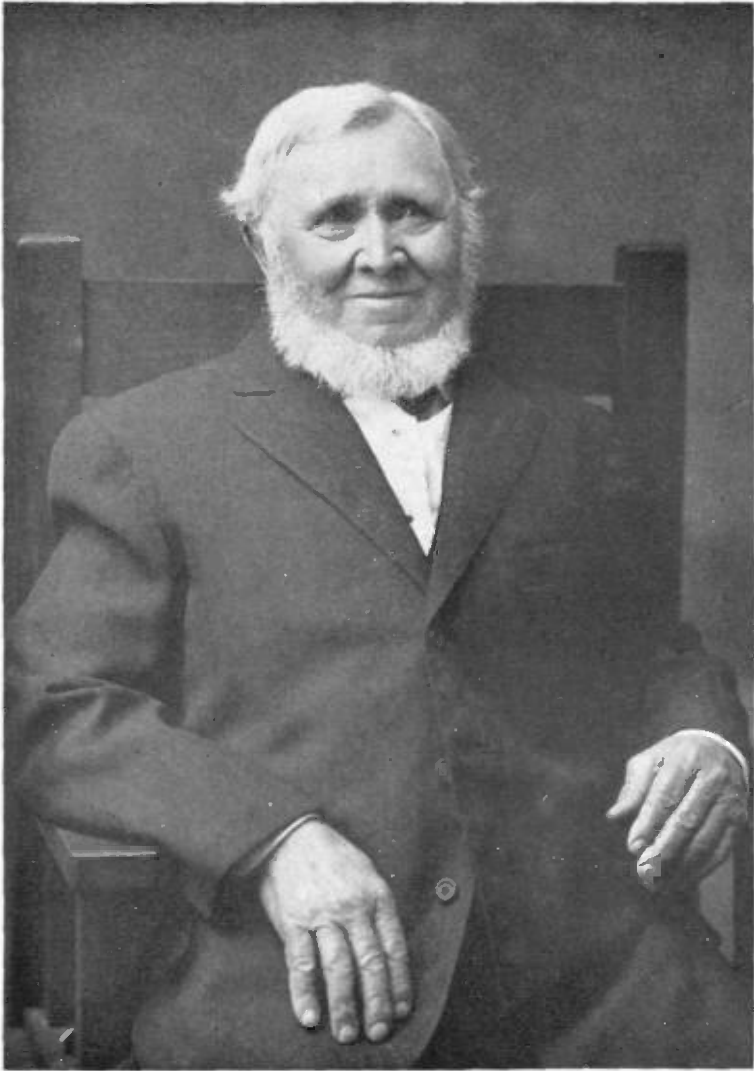
daughter, Anna Maline, was born. November 10, 1888, they moved to section twenty-eight, in the same township. On this place was born, Tallak Edwin, Ausye Gertrude and Alma Isabelle. April 4, 1893, the family moved to Harmony village. Here was born Amanda Rebecca, now deceased; James Tillman and Tollef Edwin. Tollef Edwin is a harness maker, being associated with his father in the firm of A. Harstad & Son. The rest of the children are still at school.

**Edward S. Haugrud** is a native of this county, born in Preston, January 22, 1870, son of Samuel Olson Haugrud, who is still living in Preston township. Edward S., was reared on the home farm, and attended the "Windy Ridge" school. After attaining the years of manhood, he married Amy X., the daughter of Tallek and Aase Brokken, the former being one of the most progressive and proseprous men that ever lived in Harmony. Mr. and Mrs. Haugrud are the parents of G. A. Edna, Allen Sherman, Ada Groda I., Tallak B., Otelia B., and Aurelia G. The family lives on the old Brokken homestead, the original pioneer log cabin which Mr. and Mrs. Brokken erected being still standing. The present dwelling was erected in 1876. The farm which is well cared for under Mr. Haugrud's intelligent management, consists of 260 acres, practically all under cultivation. The members of the family are regular attendants of the Exangelical Lutheran church.

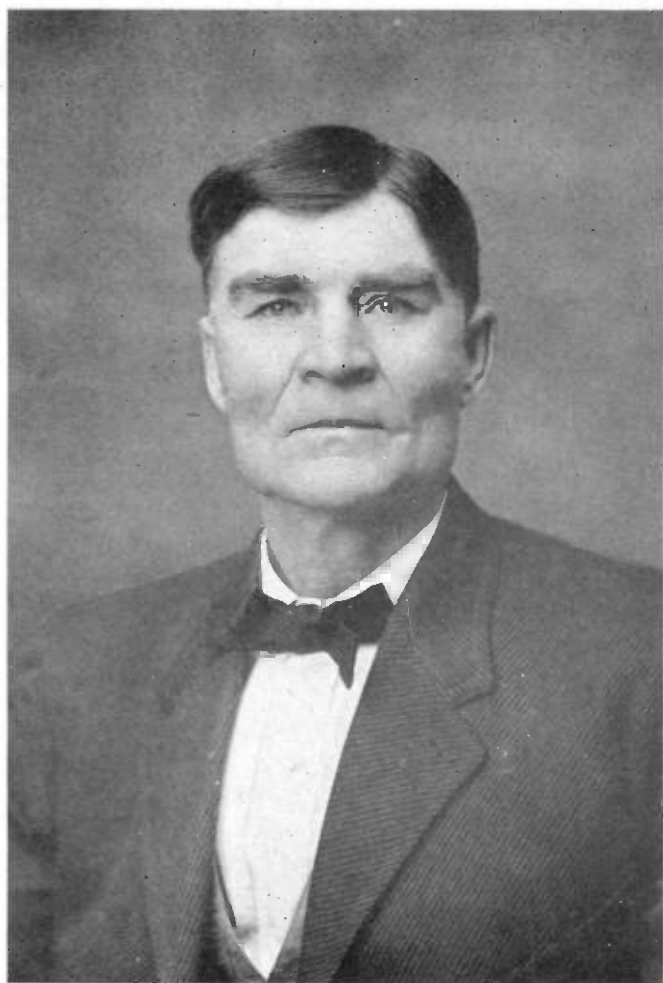
**Samuel Olson (Haugrud)**, a farmer of Preston township, was born in Norway, and came to America in 1861. After locating in Bristol township, in this county, he worked at his trade as a stone mason, and later started farming in Preston township. He worked on a number of important contracts and has the honor of having done the mason work on Tibbett's Hotel, at Preston, then known as the Stanwick House. His wife died October 18, 1911. They had nine children: Ole, of North Dakota; Austin, of Preston township; Edward S., of Harmony township; Anna, wife of Thad. T. Brokken; Betsy, wife of Ole Haugrud, of Wadena, Minn.; Anon, deceased; Andrew, of Preston; Oline, wife of Ole Brokken; and Matilda, wife of A. K. Colburn, who lives on the old homestead.

**William Miller**, a venerable figure in the township of Harmony, was born in Prussia, Germany, March 11, 1833. He came to America with his father, Frederic, and his mother, in 1852, and lived for a time in Canada West, where he worked at his trade for five years. In 1857 the family came to section three, Harmony township, and here lived for a time in a log house. Later they moved into a partially completed stone house. After





WILLIAM MILLER



DR. E. S. ERICKSON

the death of the father, William put on a frame addition in 1874. William received his schooling in Germany and supplemented this by home study and reading in this country. He is in many ways a remarkable man for his years. He is well informed on the matters pertaining to the United States, an intelligent talker and a pleasant gentleman. His splendid success speaks for itself as to what he has accomplished. The home farm comprises 308 acres, located in sections three and ten. Mr. Miller married Minnie Schultz, a native of Germany, who died August 17, 1896. They were the parents of six children: Charles A., Herman, Hulda, Albert M., Malvina, and Minnie. Mrs. Miller came to America with her parents in 1857 and settled in Preston township.

**Frederic Miller**, an early pioneer, many years deceased, was born in Prussia, Germany, and came to America with his wife and son, William, in 1852. He worked as a stone mason in Canada West until 1857, when he brought his family to Harmony township, this county, and settled in section three. Here he built a log house. He burned the lime for the building of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church at Harmony, and had started a stone house for himself at the time of his death, January 2, 1872. His wife died September 28, 1883.

**A. M. Miller**, a common-sense farmer, living in the township of Harmony, is a native born son of this county, having first seen the light of day on the old homestead in section three, Harmony township, where his father, William, still resides. He was reared on the home farm and obtained his schooling in the Grub district. He now successfully carries on general farming and owns 160 acres all of which with the exception of fifty acres of timber land is under cultivation. His dwelling is modern, and his barns are large and commodious. He was married in December, 1895, to Emma Burmeister, daughter of Charles Burmeister, and they have two children: Mabel and Ada.

**Erick S. Erickson, V. S.**, is the son of Sven Solseth, who was generally known by the name of Thomas Erickson, and the grandson of Erick. Erick, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Norway, in 1798 and migrated to America with his wife and family in 1845, settling in Racine county, Wisconsin, where they lived for several years, coming to Fillmore county in July, 1854, and locating in Harmony township. He died September 13, 1874, leaving a wife and four children. Thomas (Sven Solseth), the son of Erick, Sr., was born in Holtingedall, Norway, in 1833, and came with his parents to America

in 1845, locating in Muskego, Racine county, Wis., where he worked in a bindery until he was twenty-four years of age. Then he came to the home of his parents in Harmony. He married Julia Riste, who is still living at the age of seventy-five years, her husband, Sven Solseth, having died in February 1, 1895, leaving three children: Julia, the wife of Halver Johnson, living at Napoleon, N. D.; Erick S.; and Ole, who died March 14, 1912. Erick S., who is living on the home place where he was reared, attended the district schools of his neighborhood, and the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa. December 30, 1886, he married Ingar Blexrud, born February 2, 1865, daughter of K. Blexrud and sister of the present sheriff of Fillmore county. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are the parents of nine children: Selma, born February 19, 1888; Sibert, born April 3, 1889; Casper, born October 22, 1890; Minnie, born October 19, 1892; Raymond, born August 17, 1894; Grace, born July 18, 1897; Ruth, born April 28, 1899; Ella, born July 25, 1902, and Ethel, born October 28, 1904. Selma is the wife of Emil Nupson. Minnie is teaching school in York. The historic home of Mr. Erickson is beautifully situated among the trees. His farm comprises 243 acres, all under cultivation with the exception of four acres. In addition to farming, Mr. Erickson is a shipper of cattle, and much of his time is devoted to his profession as a veterinary, his practice covering the states of Minnesota and Iowa.

C. A. Miller, one of the young and progressive farmers of Harmony township, now living in section eight, is the son of William and Minnie (Schultz) Miller, natives of Prussia, Germany. He was reared on the home farm in section three, and received his early training in the Grub schoolhouse. His farm consists of 240 acres, all under cultivation with the exception of about ten acres. His home was formerly the residence of one of the old pioneers, Richard Duxbury. Mr. Miller married Annie, the daughter of Ferdinand and Anstenia Prey, natives of Germany, and they have three children: Sarah, Clara and William F.

H. G. Brufodt, a resident of Harmony, is a genial and accomplished gentleman whom it is a pleasure to meet. He is a believer in the agricultural progress of the country, and has beautified his own place until it has the appearance of a baronial estate. He was born in Norway, in December 11, 1847, son of Gunnuf and Live Sagflodte, and came with his parents to America in 1851. After living in Muskego, Wis., for four years, they moved to Hesper, Iowa, and from there came to section six,

Canton township. Here the son, H. G., was reared, being initiated into the art of farming by his father. He married Isabel Gustad, born in Norway, September 3, 1843, daughter of Nels Gustad and Anna Klavken, settlers of 1867, both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Bruflodt after their marriage came to Harmony and took up their residence on the Gustad farm, where they still reside, and where they have raised their four children: Lena, the wife of William Coyle; Mary, the wife of Christ Vik; Annie, the wife of Martin Olson; and Minnie, now living in Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Bruflodt live in a very pleasant home, surrounded by flowers and shrubbery. In the immediate grounds is a profusion of fruit, such as apples and grapes. An unusual sight is the trellis-covered wind-mill frame, which is concealed by a luxurious growth of grape vines almost to the very top. Mr. Bruflodt and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church of Harmony.

Ole N. Thundale, a progressive merchant of Harmony village, was born in Norway in 1864, and came to America, June 1, 1885, coming directly to Newburg township, where he worked as a farm hand, for some two years being employed by M. H. Hansohn and others. In 1890 he went into the mercantile business with Mr. Hansohn, under the firm name of Thundale & Hansohn. In 1900, they consolidated with the Johnson Brothers and the firm became O. N. Thundale Company. In the spring of 1907, they sold out to Tollefson & Hellickson, and this firm continued in business until 1910, when Mr. Thundale bought them out, since which time he has continued in business alone, successfully building up a large trade. He is a director in the Harmony State Bank, and a stockholder in the First National Bank of Harmony. The subject of this sketch has taken an active part in public affairs. In 1905 and 1907 he served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, and at various times has served on different Republican congressional and county committees. He has been trustee and president of the village of Harmony, and has also been clerk of the township. Fraternally, Mr. Thundale is allied with Greenfield Lodge, No. 234, I. O. O. F., of Harmony; Canton Lodge, No. , A. F. & A. M., of Canton. He married Betsie Benson, daughter of Evan Benson, and they have two children: Emma G. and Ruth E., who are at home. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

Gunder Christoferson Selvig was born two miles east of Stavanger, Norway, April 13, 1842, and in that locality received his early schooling and grew to manhood. He was married in Norway in 1871 to Guri Marie Hanson, and the next day they

sailed for America. After a stay of some months in Rushford, this county, he went to Chicago and for two years followed the lakes as a sailor, being employed most of that time on boats between Chicago and Buffalo, N. Y. Returning to Rushford, he was engaged by the Southern Minnesota Railroad and continued in its employ for more than eighteen years, ten of which he spent as section foreman. To Gunver C. Selvig and Guri M. Hanson, his wife, were born four children. Hans is a merchant in Fremont, Minn. He married Ada Nesbet and to them have been born five children: Harold, Neil, Milton, Mabel and Marian. Severine, who lives in Norway township, married Louis Paulson and they are the parents of five children, Clarence, Ruth, Selmar, Agnes and Francis. Conrad is principal of the Crookston Agricultural School. He married Marian Wilcox and they have three children, Helen, Margaret and George. Carlus is a successful dentist of Harmony, where he has practiced since he completed his dental course in University of Minnesota. He has an extensive practice and is one of the progressive men of the locality. Dr. Selvig married Blanche Hellickson, daughter of H. C. and Anna Hellickson.

G. C. Selvig lost his wife in 1881. In 1885, he married Rachel Olson and to them three children were born: Thorwald, who is a student in the Dental College at the University of Minnesota; Odin and Geneva, who are at home. G. C. Selvig, who has spent nearly half a century in Rushford, now lives a retired life. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is a Republican.

**James S. Jacobson**, Harmony banker, now deceased, was born near Lenora, township of Canton, December 15, 1857, the oldest son of John and Annie (Bergen) Jacobson, pioneer settlers, who came to America in an early day and located in Waukesha county, Wisconsin. In 1853, they moved to the town of Hesper, in Iowa, and in 1854 located on a farm in Canton township. James S. Jacobson attended the district schools of his neighborhood, and attended Luther College at Decorah, Iowa. He early learned the watchmaker's trade, and followed this line for several years, being employed at Decorah, Lanesboro, Albert Lea and Forest City. Later he became interested in pharmacy and opened a store in Tacoma, Wash., which he successfully conducted until his business was destroyed by fire. In 1898 he returned to Harmony, and became assistant cashier in the Harmony Bank, which in 1904 was incorporated as the Harmony State Bank, at which time, Mr. Jacobson was elected its cashier. In this position he served well and faithfully until a short time before his death which occurred April 7, 1911. He married

Anna (Aaberg), daughter of Samuel and Emily (Nelson) Aaberg, and their children are: Aleda and James S., Jr. Mr. Jacobson belonged to the blue lodge, chapter, commandery and shrine of the Masons, also to the Eastern Star, the M. W. A., and the B. A. Y.

**Samuel Aaberg**, merchant, lumberman and farmer, was born in Norway in 1847, and came to America in 1867. He resided in Stoughton, Dane county, Wis., for a time, then went to Howard county, Iowa, and engaged in farming. While there he married Emily Nelson, daughter of Sondry Nelson, an early settler of that county. This union has been blessed with the following children: Anna, Sander (deceased), Albert, Carl, Carrie, Sabin (died July 10, 1906), Henry, Helga, Sander and Arnold, the latter two being twins. In 1880, Mr. Aaberg came to Harmony, and took charge of the Day Brothers' lumber yard. When the yard was purchased by Edwards & Osborne, July 26, 1881, he continued with them in the same capacity. He also engaged in the hardware business for a time, and was postmaster at Harmony for twelve years. He is held in high esteem and has been elected at different times to various offices. Mr. Aaberg moved in May, 1911, to North Dakota, where he lives with his two sons.

**Austin Maland**, an early settler of Harmony township, was born in Norway, and in 1842 came to America and located in Muskego, Racine county, Wis., where in 1844, he assisted in building the first Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church ever erected in America. This historic building has been moved, log for log, and now adorns the campus of the St. Augsburg Seminary, midway between St. Paul and Minneapolis. August 4, 1857, Austin Maland brought his family to Harmony township, and located on a piece of land in sections twenty-six and thirty-five, where he pursued farming the remainder of his days, dying in 1878. His wife passed away in 1894.

**Ole A. Maland**, proprietor of the Deer Creek stock farm, and one of the pioneers of Harmony township, was born in Dover township, Racine county, Wisconsin, February 16, 1852, son of Austin Maland. He came to Harmony with his parents in 1857, and was reared on the home farm in sections twenty-six and thirty-five. He attained his schooling in district forty-one, and has always remained on the home place. He has one of the finest farms in the township, having 400 acres, all except forty acres of timber land being under a high state of cultivation. His dwelling is comfortable and homelike, and his outbuildings commodious. He also has ten acres of timberland in section thirty-four. Mr.

Maland has never aspired to public office, but has done good service as supervisor of the town and as a member of the school board. He married Nellie, daughter of Lars Olson, known in the old country by his farm name of Dumrud. Mr. and Mrs. Maland are the parents of four children: Amelia, Alford L., Enos E. and Melvin W. Alford L. married Hilda Johnson, and they have one son, Freeman Lester. Enos E. and Melvin W. cultivate the home farm, Mr. Maland having practically retired. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Maland votes the Republican ticket, and belongs to the blue lodge, chapter and commandery of the Masons.

**Hugh F. Jones**, a retired farmer of Bristol township, now living in the village of Harmony, was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, December 29, 1858, son of John O. and Margaret (Jones) Jones. The father was born in Wales and brought his wife and one child, John, Jr., to America in 1839, locating in Columbia county, Wisconsin, where the remainder of their children were born and reared. In 1865 the family came to Bristol township, this county, and settled in section twenty-one, where the parents remained for twenty years. The father finally retired from active life and moved to Granger, where he died April 14, 1893. The mother died November 20, 1905. Hugh F. came to this county with his parents, was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and remained on the home place until 1905, when he brought his family to Harmony, and located in the north end of the village. Later he moved to the lower end of the village, and now has one of the most attractive residences in the community. As a farmer he was most successful and is now enjoying the hard-earned fruits of a well-spent life. Although living in the village he still retains his fine farm of 320 acres in Bristol township, which he rents. He married Maggie Reynolds, born in Juneau county, Wisconsin, September 6, 1862, the daughter of John and Margaret Reynolds, and this union has been blessed with five children: John H., Richard E., Rosina M., Mary A. and Pearl R. While living in Bristol township, Mr. Jones served in various town and school offices. Being of a sociable nature, he has allied himself with Greenfield Lodge, No. 234, I. O. O. F. He and his wife are both highly respected in the community in which they have made their home. Mr. and Mrs. John O. Jones had nine children: John O., Jr., Ann, Charlotte, Jane, Maggie, Owen, Lizzie, Hugh F. and Richard. Mr. and Mrs. John Reynolds came from Wisconsin to this county in 1870, and settled in Bristol township. In 1910, they moved to Bristol township, where they still live. They had three children, Edward G., John W. and Maggie, and also reared another child, Jennie.



Oscar Hegg, a successful farmer of Harmony township, was born in Bristol Grove, Bristol township, June 26, 1875, son of Brynild and Isabella (Domnrud) Hegg, thus being one of the native born sons of this county and state. He was reared in Bristol and Harmony, and lived much the same life as other farm boys of his neighborhood and period. Growing to manhood, he started farming on his own account by purchasing a place in section twenty-two, Harmony. His farm comprises 160 acres all under cultivation. Mr. Hegg also has a tract of forty acres and another of eighty acres, both in section fifteen. His dwelling is a comfortable one, and his outbuildings are spacious and well kept, making his home very attractive to the passerby. He married Helen Gunderson, daughter of Gunder and Helga Halversen, who came to Fillmore county in 1888.

Brynild Hegg, now deceased, came to America in the early fifties with his brother Nels, and went to work in the pineries near Buffalo, N. Y. The brother Nels for some unaccountable reason was called by his employer, Nels Thompson, a name he retained for the remainder of his days. Brynild later came westward and located in Muskego, Racine county, Wis. A few years afterward he settled in section seventeen, Bristol township, this county, and there the family lived until 1882, when they moved to section fifteen, Harmony township. There they followed general farming for several years. Mr. Hegg then retired and lived in the village of Harmony until his death in 1900. His wife, whose maiden name was Isabella Domnrud, died 1903.

Mrs. Clarice Eddy Gilmore, now living in the village of Harmony, taught school in Fillmore and Houston counties for over thirty years. She received her first term's schooling from Lucinda Miller in Canton, and also attended district four school in Newburg. Later she entered the select school at Hesper, Iowa, and in 1865, attended the first session of the State Normal School, at Winona, this state. She commenced teaching in 1862, when she was but seventeen years of age, her first school being in the old slab schoolhouse near Riceford. Later she taught in Henrytown and Lenora. Mrs. Clarice Eddy Gilmore was born in Amherst, Loraine county, Ohio, August 30, 1845, daughter of Ethan P. and Julia (Onstine) Eddy, the former of whom was prominently identified with the settlement and growth of the county, the story of his life being told elsewhere in this history. Clarice Eddy, as was then her name, married for her first husband, Judge M. Bigelow. Mr. Bigelow was a veteran of the Civil War, enlisting January 4, 1864, in Company D, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and serving until December 2, 1865, being wounded in service. After

the close of the war, he went to Martin county, Minnesota. In 1873 he bought a home in Riceford, and here remained until his death, February 14, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Bigelow had two children: Amy E. and Hattie A. Amy is the wife of Grant B. Kenyon, and they have one son, Glen B. Hattie A. is living in Amherst. For her second husband, Clarice Eddy Bigelow married Wolcot N. Gilmore.

Wolcot N. Gilmore was born in Ohio, April 18, 1830. When he was ten years of age he came with his parents to Racine, Wis., where he resided until he was twenty-two years old, at which time he started on foot for Lansing, Iowa, with a capital of \$100.00 in his pocket. Reaching that town he engaged in cutting cord wood. In 1855 he came to Spring Grove, and purchased land near that place. In 1859 he sold this tract and settled in Newburg township, where he lived until going to California. He also lived a number of years in Mabel. Mr. Gilmore married three times. In 1858 he married Mahala Rowe, who bore him three children: Addison H., Vernon H. and Mary. Mrs. Mahala Rowe Gilmore died March 22, 1871. Mr. Gilmore afterward married Lucy Van Dorn, who bore him four children: Norman, Oscar, Anson and Charles. Mrs. Lucy Van Dorn Gilmore died a number of years ago. For his third wife, Mr. Gilmore married Mrs. Clarice Eddy Bigelow. Mr. Gilmore died January 17, 1908. He was one of the early settlers and was prominently identified with the business affairs of the community. In 1873 and 1874 he served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature.

Hans S. Johnson, a staunch old citizen, known in the old country by the name of Bergen, was born near Tinn, Prestegeld, Norway, June 9, 1833. He came to America with his father in 1847, and lived with him eight years in Muskego, Racine county, Wis. Then they lived in Locust Lane, Iowa, eight years, subsequently coming to Harmony about 1860, and settling on section twenty-three, where the father built a log house, and where he lived until his death, December 13, 1863, at the age of sixty-one years. The mother had died in the old country. Hans S. was reared in his parents' home, and received his schooling in Norway, and in Muskego, Wis. After his father's death he took charge of the home farm, which he now owns. The place comprises 140 acres, all under cultivation. In addition to this he owns two other farms, one of 120 acres and one of 160 acres. He has now practically retired from active life, and his son, Theodore, operates the home farm. Mr. Johnson married Turine Ellis, a native of America, daughter of John Ellis, who came from Norway and settled in this county in an early day. To this union ten children



MR. AND MRS. OLE ERICKSON (SOLSETH)

have been born: Samuel B., John A., Elizabeth, Bernhardt, Martin, Julius, Ida, Hilda, Theodore and Helmer. Samuel B. is a clothing merchant in the village of Harmony. He married Ida Sorenson, and they have two children: Harold T. and Ruth. Elizabeth is the wife of P. M. Oistad. Ida is the wife of H. M. Oistad. Hilda is the wife of Alfred Maland. John A. lives in Montana; Bernhardt lives in Canada; Martin lives in Harmony; Theodore is on the home farm; Helmer and Julius live in Harmony.

**Ole Erickson** (Solseth), an early settler, now deceased, generally known as Ole Solseth, was born in Norway in 1831, and came to America with his parents in 1845, living with them in Muskego, Racine county, Wis., where he was confirmed in the historic old first Norwegian Lutheran church in America. In 1854 the family came to Fillmore county, and settled in section twenty-four, Harmony township, where Ole was married in 1861. The original home was built of logs, but this building was burned many years ago, and replaced on the same spot by the present dwelling. During his lifetime, Mr. Erickson held various offices, among which may be mentioned those of justice of the peace and town supervisor. He died in 1874. The home farm consisted of 240 acres but has now been divided among the children, Martin J., the youngest, looking after the old home and the surrounding land. The subject of this sketch was married in 1861 to Randa, daughter of Helge Helgeson, of Newburg township, and this union was blessed with seven children: Ellen J., Julia, Emma, Edward, Oliver, Martin J. and Ole R., the latter being dead. Julia married John Brokken. Ellen J. married Knut Knutsen.

**R. W. Daniels**, who is identified with the business life of Harmony, was born in the township where he still resides, October 25, 1860, son of Alonzo and Flavia (Merriek) Daniels. He was reared on the home farm, and attended school in district thirty-seven, better known as the "Grub" district. When he grew to manhood, he started farming on his own account in section twelve, where he built a comfortable home and commodious outbuildings. In addition to farming, Mr. Daniels has given considerable time to working at his trade which is that of a carpenter. He has also been connected with many important enterprises. He has been secretary of the Harmony Mutual Life Insurance Company twelve years and has given excellent service in this capacity. In 1908, he became vice-president of the First National Bank of Harmony, and after the death of Jacob S. Jacobson, he became cashier of the Harmony State Bank. Mr. Daniels married Alice, the daughter of Samuel and

Theadosia (Halsey) Dunn, and they have one daughter, Dora. Mr. Daniels is a member of Greenfield Lodge, No. 234, I. O. O. F., of Harmony.

**Henry T. Gregerson**, a well-to-do farmer known in the old country by the name of Boen, was born in Tinn, Prestegeld, Norway, December 5, 1858, and came to America with his parents in 1860, locating with them in Harmony township, where they lived with an uncle about eighteen months. Then the father built a log house in section twelve, broke and cultivated the land and continued to carry on general farming. Henry T. was reared on the home farm, attending school in district 140. He married Anna Kvammen, and had four children: Theresa, Thenora, Adolph and Harry. After his marriage, Mr. Gregerson rented the Nupson farm, which he operated six years. In 1892 he came to his own farm in section twelve. That summer he built a fine dwelling and some commodious and suitable outbuildings. The farm consists of 160 acres, practically all under cultivation, and Mr. Gregerson is regarded as one of the prudent and successful men of the community. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church.

**Alonzo Daniels** was born in Wayne county, New York, July 13, 1832, and was taken by his parents to Onondaga county, in the same state, when he was thirteen years of age. In the fall of 1855, he came to Spring Prairie, Walworth county, Wis., and the following spring came to Fillmore county, and purchased 160 acres in section two, Harmony township. He did not however, locate here until 1858. Mr. Daniels was a mechanic in early life and followed the trade of carpentry for many years in addition to farming. He was prominently identified with the progress and development of the town and held many of the town offices. In 1901 he moved to the village of Harmony where he now resides. His wife died June 6, 1900.

**Charles Bramer**, of the Bramer Brothers' livery at Harmony, was born about twelve miles west of Milwaukee, Wis., May 10, 1864, son of Christ Bramer, who was born in Germany and came to America in the early sixties. Charles spent his early life in Bristol township, this county, and there attended school, subsequently working out as a farmer. After his marriage he started farming on his own account in section thirty-six, where he remained two years. Then he came to Harmony, and was variously employed for two years. He made his first venture in the hotel business at Lima Springs, Iowa, but after a year there, he returned to Harmony and for two and a half years operated

the Arlington Hotel. Subsequently he tried the restaurant business a year and the livery business a year, still later conducting a restaurant in Chester, Iowa, for two years. Once more he returned to Harmony, and conducted a livery two years. This he disposed of and took up the grocery and restaurant business for some two years. Then he engaged in his present business. Being of a genial disposition, Mr. Bramer has allied himself with the M. W. A. and his wife is a member of the Yeomen. He was married February 8, 1891, to Kate, the daughter of Charles and Margaret (Hally) McCarty, the former of whom was an early pioneer, and is still living in section thirty-one, township of Harmony, at the good old age of eighty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Bramer are the parents of two children: Clare and Emma.

**Ole J. Sanden**, a reliable farmer, living in Harmony township, was born in Norway, July 26, 1845, son of John Austerson. He came to America alone and reached Harmony, June 7, 1866. After looking the country over, he went to the Dakotas. Returning to Harmony in 1874, he purchased the farm where he now resides in section one. The farm consists of 112 acres, all under cultivation with the exception of fifteen acres of timber land. Mr. Sanden married Susan Blomhaugen, a native of Wisconsin. They have ten children: Nettie, Sophia, John, Henry, Clara, Theodore, Hilda and George (twins), Selma and Thomas. Nettie is the wife of Ole Fellen, and they have two boys, Oryl and Alden. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Harmony, which institution is planning to build a new house of worship at a cost of over \$20,000. John Austerson, the father of Ole J. Sanden, after having buried his wife in the old country, came to America in 1882. He had a large family. Ole J. came to this country alone in 1866, as before stated. Gere lives in Alberta, Canada. Susan is now Mrs. Mehlan, and lives in Grant county, Minnesota. John J. lives in section twelve, Harmony township. He was born July 31, 1855, and came to America in 1882. He married Esther Johnson and they have three children, Inga, Norah and Glenn.

**Michael McCarty**, a merchant of Harmony, was born in Fremont, Winneshiek county, Iowa, July 14, 1858, son of Charles and Margaret (Holly) McCarty. He was brought by his parents to this county in 1864, lived in Canton township with them a year, and then with them located in section thirty-one, Harmony township, where he remained until he was twenty-eight years of age. Then he carried cream for about three years and in 1890 entered into the business which he is now successfully conducting in Harmony. Mr. McCarty is a member of the M. W. A. and the

R. N. A. Under Grover Cleveland, he did the village good service as postmaster. The subject of this sketch married Annie Daskam, daughter of George and Bridget (Ely) Daskam, the former of whom was born in New York state, December 5, 1832, and died February 27, 1865, and the latter of whom was born in Ireland, February 14, 1837, and died January 31, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. McCarty are the parents of three children: Jennie, John and Charles. Jennie is the wife of Perry Wheeler and they have two children, Willard and Loren.

**Charles McCarty** was born at Granby, Canada, and married Margaret Holly, a native of the same place. They came to the United States about 1850, and located in Illinois. In 1856, they came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he preëmpted land, also working a year in a sawmill. In 1863 he sold out his farm, and in 1864 negotiated for a farm in Canton, this county. After living on the place a year he found that it would be impossible for him to get a clear title, and accordingly he purchased a farm in section thirty-one, Harmony township, where he still resides at the good old age of eighty-seven years. His wife, Margaret, died in 1884 at the age of fifty-two years.

**A. E. Barnes**, living in the village of Harmony, is the son of Augustus and Jane (Hawley) Barnes, and a grandson of Moses Barnes, the pioneer hotel keeper at Big Spring. He was reared on his father's farm in section eight, Harmony, and obtained his early education in the old log schoolhouse in district thirty-eight. He remained at home until his mother's death, in 1874, at which time he moved to Wisconsin. There he lived a year, then went to South Dakota and remained four years, finally going to Butler county, Iowa, where he stayed one year. Afterward he came to Harmony village where he has been in the employ of O. N. Thundale for thirteen years. He married Phebe, daughter of Erwin and Margaret M. Rolfe, and they have one son, Clyde.

**Augustus M. Barnes**, was a son of Moses Barnes. He came west with his parents in 1853 and helped them in running the old Big Spring hotel for several years. He also assisted on the home farm. His own farm was just west of his father's in section eight, Harmony. His wife's maiden name was Jane Hawley. To them was born ten children, Calista, the oldest, was the only girl. The ten children are all living at the present time.

**Moses Barnes**, pioneer hotel proprietor, was born in New York state, was married to Polly Bingham, and remained there until coming to Dane county, Wisconsin. In 1853, the family

came to Fillmore county, and located on section eight, Harmony township. Big Spring was on this property, and it was here that the famous old hotel was built, in 1853, being opened to the public that same year. As this place was on the Dubuque-St. Paul stage line and was the most noted camping ground in Minnesota the hotel under the management of Mr. Barnes did a big business for several years, especially in the winter time when navigation on the Mississippi was closed. Moses Barnes was a prominent man in his day and took an important part in the development of the town. When the town was organized, May 11, 1858, he with John H. Addison and William Walter were the judges of election. Not until he was well along in years would he consent to part with the old Big Spring home, but was finally persuaded to sell and moved to Lyon county, Minnesota, where he lived with his son R. D. until his death.

**F. A. Gowdy, M. D.**, a successful physician and surgeon, living in the village of Harmony, was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., in 1871, son of F. O. and Ida (Averill) Gowdy.

F. O. Gowdy, the father, came from Oneida, Onondaga county, N. Y., to Wisconsin, in 1859. In the fall of 1878 he settled in Spring Valley township, this county, and carried on farming until 1903, when he moved to Koochiching county, Minnesota, where he still resides.

F. A., the subject of this sketch, was reared on the home farm in Spring Valley, and attended school in the Dunbar Leach and the Hellickson districts. His medical training was received at the Hahnemann Medical College, in Chicago. Upon receiving his diploma, he commenced practice in Granger, Bristol township, this county, where he remained in practice five years. In 1902 he moved to Harmony, where he has since resided. Although he has been here but nine years he enjoys a large and lucrative practice which extends for miles around. Being thoroughly ethical in his practice, he has allied himself with the Fillmore and Houston County Medical Association and the American Medical Association. Fraternally he affiliates with Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., Harmony Lodge, I. O. O. F., and Camp No. 2910, M. W. A. He married Jessie Rix, and they have two daughters, Maxine and Mildred.

**Timothy F. Hallisy**, a successful groceryman and restaurant keeper, of Harmony, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, June 12, 1858, son of Jeremiah and Julia (Sullivan) Hallisy, the former of whom was born in County Kerry, Ireland, and came to America as a single man, following the occupation of farmer until his death. The home farm in McHenry county, Illinois, is now oper-



ated by a son, Thomas. Timothy came to Minnesota and located in Harmony township in 1880. He stopped for a while with his cousin, and worked for Patrick Kroony in Carimona and for Joe Whalen in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Then he went to Spink county, South Dakota, and took up wild land which he broke and developed, operating the same seven years. Upon returning to Harmony, in 1890, he entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, Michael McCarty, in the drygoods and grocery business. This partnership continued twelve years, after which Mr. Hallisy and Theodore Applen opened a hardware store which they conducted together ten years. In July, 1911, Mr. Hallisy bought out a grocery and restaurant business, which he is now managing. The subject of this sketch married Maggie, the daughter of Charles and Margaret (Hally) McCarty. Her father is one of the pioneers of Fillmore county, and is still living at the age of eighty-seven years.

Lyman H. Boice, living in the township of Harmony, is a descendant of one of the early pioneers of that place. He was born on section five, March 11, 1881, the son of Howard V. and Mary (Milne) Boice and the grandson of Susan and William, early settlers of Preston, the latter of whom was born in Dutchess county, New York, October 3, 1803. In 1855 he came west, spent the winter in Chicago, and in the spring of 1856 came to Fillmore county, settling in the township of Preston, where he lived until his death, which occurred March 27, 1866, his wife surviving until 1902. Mr. and Mrs. William Boice were the parents of: Caroline, who married William Oakley; William, who died in 1866; Phoebe J., who died in 1897; Aaron, Martin, Sarah A., now wife of John Mills; Emily, wife of William Duxbury; Howard V. (deceased), Willard and Clayton. Howard V., the father of Lyman H., was born in Herkimer county, New York, in 1845, and came with his parents to Preston township in the spring of 1856. He remained on the home farm until 1862, when he enlisted in Company E, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went to the frontier of this state to protect the settlers from the Indians. In April of the same year he was wounded by an accidental discharge of a gun, and was in the hospital until March, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Milne, was the daughter of Henry Milne, and was born in Scotland, December 25, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Howard V. Boice had three children: Jessie, the wife of Dell Horton; Gertrude, wife of Hobert Engle, and Lyman H., who married Lena Aug, and has three children: Howard, Harold and Wendle. Lyman Boice, who furnished the data for this family record, received his schooling in district No. 129, Preston township. He was brought up on

the home farm, where he and his family are living. The farm comprises 240 acres, and the present dwelling was built twenty-eight years ago.

**Mahlon Newell**, living in the village of Harmony, was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, in 1851, son of Daniel and Mary (Young) Newell, the former of whom was born and reared in Pennsylvania. Mahlon came west to Lenora in 1871, and three months later his parents followed him, and located about two and a half miles west of Henrytown, on a farm where they remained one year, after which they moved to Lenora, where they conducted a hotel for five years. Then they went to Rockwell, near Mason City, Iowa, where the father, Daniel, operated a coal yard, and the son Mahlon conducted a meat market for five years. Mahlon then went to Frederick, Brown county, S. D., preëmpted land and bought out a meat market, which he managed for nine years until he moved to Duluth, Minn., where he was employed three months, and where, after the expiration of that period, he purchased a meat market which he carried on for six years. In 1893 he returned to the old home farm near Lenora, remaining two years. In 1895 he came to Harmony and purchased a meat market, which he is still conducting. Mr. Newell married Julia Eddy, said to be the first white child born in Fillmore county, daughter of Ethan P. and Julia (Onstine) Eddy, the former of whom was one of the first settlers of Amherst and named that town in honor of Amherst, Ohio, from whence came his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Newell are the parents of five children: Ethan D., Stella, Mahlon Q., Floyd V. and Vernon L. Stella is the wife of J. W. Smiley, and they have one child, Lucille. Ethan D. married Iona Mark, and they have one child, Marion. Mahlon Q., married Mabel Hudson. Mr. Newell is a member of the M. W. A. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Newell, also reside in the village of Harmony, where they are substantial and highly regarded citizens.

**Ethan P. Eddy**, now deceased, an early settler, who has the distinction of naming the town of Amherst, from the town of Amherst, Ohio, where his wife was born, was a native of New York state, born in Wyoming county, January 12, 1819. When he was an infant his parents moved to Allegany county, and when he was twelve years old they moved to Chautauqua county in the same state, soon afterward locating in Loraine county, Ohio. In 1832 they went to Michigan. In 1836 Ethan left home to learn the carpenter trade. Three years later he returned to Ohio, and was employed on the farm of Henry Onstine. February 28, 1841, he married Julia Onstine, and subsequently continued at his trade

as a ship builder until 1850, when he moved to Green county, Wisconsin, where he took one hundred acres of wild land. In 1853 his father-in-law, Henry Onstine, came to the west with a party of pioneers, and Mr. Eddy joined them in Iowa. They arrived in what is now Amherst, in August, and soon afterward he purchased land of A. and J. Lashmit, who were the first settlers in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Eddy were the parents of five children: Clarice, now Mrs. Wolcot N. Gilmore; Celia E., now Mrs. Edwin S. Streater; Alice I., the wife of John W. Jones; Julia, the wife of Mahlon Newell, and Henry, living in Newburg. Mr. Eddy was one of the first commissioners of the county. He held about all of the town offices, and also represented his district in the legislature. Ethan P. Eddy died at his home in Amherst township, June 24, 1894. Mrs. Eddy died September 9, 1890.

Daniel Dayton, now deceased, was a pioneer intimately connected with the early history of this part of the country. He was born August 29, 1800, at Bennington, Vt., went to Canada as a young man, and there married Meribah Dunham, who was born in Canada, of American parentage. In 1839 they removed to Genessee county, Michigan, where Mr. Dayton filled the office of county judge, and where he resided until 1854. In November, 1854, the family came west and located in Prairie du Chien, Wis. The following spring they came to Harmony township, this county, and settled on section six, where they soon afterward opened a hotel in a log house known as "The Ravine." A stone addition was erected in 1857. Mrs. Dayton died in 1858, having borne seven children. Daniel Dayton died in 1895 at the age of ninety-five years. He was a member of the state legislature in 1859 and 1860, chairman of his township for some time, clerk of his township several years, and one of the first justices of Harmony township, in which office he served several years; and he also held minor county and town offices. It is interesting to note that one of his sons, Aaron H. H., enlisted in Company E, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and by promotion became first lieutenant.

Hans C. Horsrud, the present mayor of Harmony village, is one of the popular men of the vicinity in which he lives. He was born in Toten, Norway, February 25, 1862, son of Christian Hultverson and Mary Olson, his wife. He came to America alone, in 1882, and landed in Philadelphia. Then he came to Canton, this county, the same year and worked on a farm for Christian Helgeson for eight months. Then he worked for his brother Ole about two years. He concluded, however, that he was best suited for a mercantile life. Accordingly he entered the employ of L. T.



MR. AND MRS. ZARA DAYTON



MRS. DE ORTA CLAIR DAYTON BOICE



DANIEL D. DAYTON

Tollefson & Son at Canton, and worked for them two years. Then he moved to Lanesboro, and worked for Nelson Brothers ten years. Subsequently he was sent by Nelson Brothers to Stewartsville to manage their store there, and after eighteen months purchased the business from them, taking the Robin Brothers as partners. This partnership was dissolved five years later, and Mr. Horsrud moved to Harmony, where he entered the employ of the International Harvester Company. He was with this company ten years. His next business venture was in selling twine three years for the International Flax Twine Co. Now he is employed by the Minnesota Implement Company. Before assuming his present high office in the village he was village recorder four years. He has done his part toward the civic progress of the community, and his residence is one of the most comfortable and attractive places in Harmony. The subject of this sketch married Annie, the daughter of John and Ingebor (Moen) Ellis, pioneers, who owned a part of the present townsite of Harmony. Mr. and Mrs. Horsrud are the parents of one daughter, Geneva, born June 28, 1899.

**Zara Dayton**, a pioneer of Harmony township, and one of its most substantial citizens, was born in Canada, February 3, 1832, son of Daniel and Meribah (Dunham) Dayton, being the oldest of seven children. In 1839 he came with his parents to Genesee county, Michigan, and in 1854 to Prairie du Chien, Wis. The following year he came with them to Harmony, having in the meantime supplemented his common school education with a commercial course in Detroit, Mich. Toward the close of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, but before he reached the South, the hostilities were over. Since then he has continued to live on the home farm which he now owns. The place consists of 380 acres, of which eighty acres are in timber land, and here Mr. Dayton carries on general farming on an extensive scale. For several years he made a specialty of breeding full blooded Chester white hogs for the market, and was considered the leading swine breeder and fancier in Fillmore county. He has the record of having delivered at the Harmony yards at one time, a drove consisting of 155 fat porkers in prime condition for the market. Aside from his splendid farm in Harmony, Mr. Dayton owns over \$7,000 worth of residence property at Decorah, Iowa, considerable real estate and mining property in Mexico, and several thousand dollars' worth of property in Los Angeles, Cal. The latter locality has proven of considerable interest to Mr. Dayton, he having taken a pleasure trip there in 1903, alone, and one in 1907 with his wife. Although Mr. Dayton is nearly eight-one years of age he is still hale and hearty, and

conducts his own farm, his skill as an agriculturist, indeed, being such that in 1911 he cleared \$2,500 from his farm. The subject of this sketch married Carrie A. Brown, who was born at Cox-sackie-on-the-Hudson, February 29, 1848, daughter of William Brown. This union has been blessed with two children, Daniel D. and De Orra Clair.

Daniel D. Dayton received his preliminary education in the public schools, and then attended the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, Iowa, after which he took up the profession of pharmacy. He worked two years at Freeman, South Dakota, and then came to Lime Springs, Iowa, and purchased the drug store of Dr. Reed, which he conducted until the fall of 1901, when the business was destroyed by fire. As he was in ill health at that time he decided not to rebuild, and in the spring of 1902 went to Los Angeles, Cal., where he engaged in the realty business. At the present writing he is proprietor and manager of a large ranch at Imperial Valley, California, his specialty being thoroughbred swine, of which he is a fancier. Mrs. Daniel D. Dayton was formerly Elizabeth Armstrong, of Iowa.

De Orra Clair Dayton, after receiving a thorough public school education, entered St. Mary's Academy, at Prairie du Chien, Wis., from which she graduated. One year later she returned to the same school and took a post-graduate course. Then she taught two years in the public schools of Watertown, S. D., after which she was married to C. S. Boice. At once after their marriage they went to Ann Arbor, Mich., where Mr. Boice took up the study of law, and she the study of art. They now reside in Decorah, Iowa, where Mr. Boice is a successful lawyer and where Mrs. Boice is regarded as a most accomplished artist, both in oils and in water colors.

German Johnson, a staunch old citizen, living in Harmony township, where he has one of the finest farm residences in the county, was born in Norway, June 22, 1832. He came to America in 1843, and located in Muskego, Racine county, Wis. There he was confirmed in the historic first Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church in America, the original edifice of which has been removed and reconstructed, log for log, on the campus of the Augsburg Seminary, midway between St. Paul and Minneapolis. In 1856 he came to Harmony township. For a time he lived alone on his farm in section thirteen, but at the age of twenty-nine years, April 7, 1861, he married Julia Kroso, who proved a most able helpmate throughout all his activities. Mr. Johnson has been active in public affairs and was one of the founders of the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Church of Harmony, of which he has been trustee. He has now practically

retired from active life, and his son John looks after the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been blessed with twelve children: Edward (deceased), Augusta, John, Albert G., Henry, Emmaline, Hilda, Sophia, James, Emma, Gerhard and Ada. Henry lives in Minot, N. D. Emmaline is the wife of Theodore Olson. Hilda is the wife of H. Melan. Sophia lives in Minneapolis. James lives in San Francisco. Ada is the wife of Albert Rouk, of Spring Grove.

**William Stork**, one of the sturdy old pioneers, now deceased, was prominently identified with the early history of Harmony. He was born in Otsego county, New York, February 27, 1808, and learned and carried on the hatter's trade in Cooperstown, N. Y. He married Angeline Johnson, of Cooperstown, September 7, 1835. In 1837 he brought his wife and daughter west and settled in Geneva, Walworth county, Wis., where they lived until June, 1854, when they came to Harmony and settled on section ten, the family consisting at this time of William Stork and wife, and the children, Adaline, Edwin, William Ellis, Ann Louise, Charles Franklin and Rosalia Gertrude. On this farm, Mr. Stork continued to live for many years. He was a useful citizen, assisted in laying out many of the early roads, was chairman of the board of supervisors many years and also served in minor offices such as assessor and justice of the peace. May 17, 1873, he was stricken with partial paralysis. For this reason he retired and moved to Lime Springs, Iowa. He died at Rose Dell, Rock county, Minn., February 26, 1901, at the good old age of ninety-three years. His wife died October 1, 1899 at the age of eighty-six years.

**Edwin Stork**, one of the prominent citizens of Fillmore, county, now retired and living in Harmony village, was born in Geneva, Walworth county, Wis., son of William and Angeline (Johnson) Stork, the pioneers. In June, 1854, he came to section ten, Harmony township, with his parents and remained on the farm until the outbreak of the Rebellion. In 1862 he enlisted in the Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served three years, being honorably discharged June 8, 1865. While on a furlough, in September, 1864, he married Sarah, the daughter of William Kimber, and at the close of the war they established their home on a farm adjoining that of his father in sections two, eleven and ten, Harmony township. Their home was blessed with five children: Fred B., born March 29, 1866; Ben Franklin, October 2, 1867; Laura, born September 10, 1870 and died May 24, 1893; William H., born September 24, 1875; and Mabel R., born June 15, 1877. Mabel R. is the wife of Frank



G. Grandle, and they have one daughter, Helen. Mrs. Sarah Stork died March 12, 1881. For his second wife, Mr. Stork married Josephine, the daughter of Hiram and Madonna (Beaty) Burnham. Hiram Burnham was born in New York state, moved to Illinois, lived there a time, and then went to Missouri, where his daughter, Josephine was born. To Edwin Stork and Josephine (Burnham) Stork, his wife, have been born two children: Allen B. and Walter E. Allen B. was born April 17, 1886, graduated from the Harmony high school and the University of Minnesota and engaged in newspaper work. He died of typhoid, November 11, 1909. Walter E. was born in November, 1892, and is now engaged in business in St. Paul. While living in the country, Mr. Stork occupied many local offices, being at different times town treasurer, town supervisor and a member of the school board. In 1904 he retired from active work, and moved to the village of Harmony, where he erected a beautiful dwelling where he and his wife now reside. The home farm is now operated by his son, William H. William H. Stork married Agnes Cathcart, and they have five beautiful children: William B., Wilmer L., Marjory E., Adrian C. and Joyce Rosamond.

Theodore A. Sorenson, furniture merchant in Harmony village, was born in White Water, Walworth county, Wis., January 15, 1858, son of Andrew and Isabelle (Haugen) Sorenson. The father, Andrew Sorenson, a native of Norway, was born October 4, 1833, and came to America in 1856, a year after which he married and located in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the sheoemaker's trade. In 1863 he came to this county and settled in Pilot Mound township, followed a year later by his family, who arrived April 10, 1864. Theodore A. left home when he was in his eighteenth year and went to Preston, where he worked for J. P. Tibbetts one year in his drug store. Then he went to Chatfield and worked in the drug store of John S. Gove one year. After his marriage, he lived in Pilot Mound township two years. In 1885 he purchased the drug store of J. P. Tibbetts at Fountain, and conducted this business until 1889, when he was elected county auditor, taking office January 1, 1889, and serving for two terms, making his home in the meantime in Preston, the county seat. After the completion of his four years of service he went to Spring Valley and organized the Citizens' Bank which afterward became the First National Bank of that place. Shortly afterward he disposed of the bank, and in 1896 located in Harmony where he is now engaged in the furniture business. He married Jennie Jacobson, and this union has been blessed with three children: Ida, Alfred R. and Harry S. Ida is the wife of S. B. Johnson and they have two children,



EDWARD F. KIDDER AND FAMILY

Harold and Ruth. Alfred R. is a physician at Rugby, N. D., Harry S. is at home.

**John Thompson**, a retired farmer living in the village of Harmony, was born in Tiny Pravre te Norge, Norway, May 23, 1833, son of Tuv Tosten, in whose home he remained until 1852, when with his sisters, John Thompson came to America and located in Racine county, Wisconsin, where he worked out at farming until May, 1856, when he came to this county and purchased 160 acres of land in section one, Harmony township. Three years later, after working out by the day and month, he located on this farm, started to break and cultivate it and erected a log cabin. This cabin in 1878 was replaced by a frame dwelling. and such barns and outbuildings as were necessary were constructed from time to time. Here he lived until 1900 when he retired from hard work and moved into the village. He still owns the home place, which is worked by his son-in-law. Mr. Thompson married Caroline Herbjon, a native of Norway, and they are the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are living. They are: Thomas, who is living in Otter Tail county, this state; Tilda is the wife of Austin Halverson; Gusta is the wife of Henry Knudson; Ole, Henry and Theodore live in Harmony; Annie is the wife of Nels Fosse. Mr. Thompson is well preserved for a man of seventy-nine years. He is one of the pioneers of the county and located in Harmony two years before the village was incorporated. His dwelling is very pretty and homelike; and his garden, decorated with trees and flowers, is attractive and pleasant to look at, and reflects credit on the good taste of his wife and himself.

**Edward Franklin Kidder**, an estimable citizen of the village of Harmony, is a descendant of one of America's oldest families, his ancestor, James Kidder, having settled in Chelmsford, Mass., about 1681. The subject of this sketch was born November 20, 1869, at Rice Lake, Dodge county, Minn, son of Martin Van Buren and Mary T. (Stratton) Kidder. He was taken to Ossian, Iowa, while still a lad and there received his early schooling. In 1877, the family moved back to Minnesota, and lived a time in Lansing, returning in 1877, to Ossian, Iowa, where the father purchased property. The mother died in 1879, leaving three young children. Edward, as a young boy, was obliged to work out, and for seven years labored on a farm, working nine months and attending school three months each year. For a long time he worked simply for his board and lodging. After the family moved to Decorah, he attended the Normal school and the Breckenridge Institute as well as the Valder Business and Nor-

mal College from which institutions he graduated. It is worthy of mention that Mr. Kidder paid his own tuition from what he earned by work during the summer months. When he was eighteen years of age, he established the West Side Business College in St. Paul, which he later disposed of and clerked in a drug store, studying medicine at the same time. In 1891 he took the position of conductor on the street car in St. Paul. In 1893 he returned to Decorah, Iowa, built a residence, and in 1894 married Estella May Child, by whom he has three children, Mary F., Vera M., and Fauntine L., all at home. In 1895 he purchased a farm at Blufton, Iowa. In 1897 he sold the farm and purchased a hardware business in Harmony, which he is successfully conducting at the present time. In addition to this business, Mr. Kidder has for the past few years been studying courses leading to the degrees of Doctor of Mechano-Therapy and Doctor of Chiropractic, taking all the courses as time would permit, and graduating with high honors. Mr. Kidder has held many offices of private and public trust and honor, and has been justice of the peace for eleven years.

**The Kidder Family.** The founder of the Kidder family in America was James Kidder who came from England and settled in Chelmsford, Mass., about 1681. His descendant, Martin Van Buren Kidder was born in Vermont, July 18, 1839, and came west at an early age. His first wife, Mary L. Stratton, to whom he was married March 16, 1868, died February 24, 1878, and for his second wife he married November 23, 1878, Sophia Allison, born at Penn Yan, N. Y., July 4, 1847. She died at Bowman, N. D., January 28, 1911. Lewis H. Stratton, father of Mrs. Mary L. (Stratton) Kidder was born in Nashua, N. H., and married Lucinda Prince, who was born in Boston, Mass. The Prince family was one of the old "blue-blooded" families of Massachusetts.

**Andrew Walsh,** an up-to-date agriculturist, living on one of the finest farms in Harmony township, was born in Ireland, May 30, 1839, son of John and Mary Walsh. They came to America in 1849, and lived in Dane county, Wisconsin, until 1869, when they came to Harmony and located in section thirty-five. At that time there was simply a log house on the land. There the family lived, breaking and cultivating the land. The father died in September, 1873, and the mother in 1878. In 1890, Andrew Walsh erected his present dwelling. His farm consists of 240 acres, all of which, with the exception of thirty-eight acres on the flat-land, is under cultivation. While Mr. Walsh carries on general farming, he makes a specialty of shorthorn cattle. He married Annie, daughter of John Murphy. Mr. and Mrs. Walsh are the parents

of: John, Arthur (deceased), Patrick, Edward, Arthur, Andrew P., Mary, Breezy and Lizzie. Mary married John Daley, and they have five children: Mary, Liona, Edna, Dorris and William G. (deceased). Mr. Walsh is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Catholic church. He is a stockholder in the Harmony Telephone Company, of which he was president four years.

**J. A. Lund**, whose career as a merchant is the oldest in the village of Harmony, was born in Norway, March 8, 1849, and came to America in 1870, living two months in Houston county, and then located in Fillmore county, following his trade as a carpenter and builder. In 1884 he came to Harmony and engaged in the mercantile business with Thomas E. Thompson, the partnership continuing until 1891, when Mr. Thompson withdrew by reason of poor health. For the next ten years Andrew Ruthe became a partner. Since 1901 Mr. Lund has conducted the business alone. He has been a witness of the growth and development of the village and of the many business changes that have taken place in the past twenty-seven years, and his memory is as fresh and clear as though all these events transpired yesterday. Mr. Lund married Olin Halgesson, and they have four children living: Anna, Stella, Ingolf and Arthur. Mr. Lund is a Democrat, has been town clerk and town treasurer, and has served as mayor of the village one term.

**Ed. A. Kirkelie**, real estate dealer of Harmony, is a native of Harmony township, having been born in section two, April 11, 1858, son of Arne and Guro Hofto, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1863, and settled in Fillmore county the following years, here spending the remainder of their days, the father dying October 20, 1896, and the mother in December, 1910. Ed. A. Kirkelie was reared on the home place, assisting his father with the farm work and attending school in the neighborhood, after which he engaged in farming on section seventeen, Harmony township, until 1906, when he took up his residence in Harmony village. In 1879 he homesteaded land in Mayville, North Dakota.

He is now successfully engaged in real estate dealing, and other ventures. In July, 1878, he married Betsy Olson, and by her has eight children, of whom seven are living. After her death he married Anna Olson (Trydal) daughter of Osmund and Isabel Olson (Trydal) and to this union one daughter, Helen, was born October 24, 1906. Mrs. Kirkelie is an educated woman of many accomplishments, and is one of the popular hostesses of the community. She received her early education in the district schools of York, and in the graded schools at Spring Valley, afterward attending the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah,

Iowa. She taught school in Bennington township, Mower county, one term, in Trail county, North Dakota, two terms and in York township, this county, four terms.

**Gunder Berg**, one of the wide-awake and progressive farmers of Harmony, was born in Kragero, Norway, July 22, 1856, son of Tarald Berg. He came to this country with his parents in 1874, and located on section fifteen, Harmony township, this county. After a year he went to Lyle township in Mower county, and worked as a carpenter for a year. Then he returned to Harmony, where he engaged in various work for a couple of years. Later he purchased land of his own. He now has one of the best farms in the township. It is located in section sixteen, and comprises 223 acres. The dwelling is homelike, and the outbuildings are large enough to accommodate his produce, stock and implements. Mr. Berg is an independent voter, and has served as town supervisor and on the school board of district thirty-nine for many years. He married Gunhild Gulbrands, and they have seven children: Annie, Peter, Knut, Louis, Julius, Gustav and Clara. Annie married John Knutson, and they live in North Dakota. Peter married Gertrude Benson, and they also live in North Dakota. Louis married Genova Gulleckson, and they live in Montana. The members of the family belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Osmund Olson (Trydal)**, a pioneer, was born in Norway and married there. About 1854, he came to America with his wife, Isabel, and one child, and settled in Jefferson Prairie, Ill. About 1857 he came to this county and located in York township, where he started farming and lived until his death in 1871. His wife passed away in April, 1909. They were sturdy pioneers and respected and God-fearing people. They had four daughters and three brothers. One of the daughters, Anna, now Mrs. Ed. Kirkelie, of Harmony, furnishes the information for this sketch.

**Ole O. Scrabeck**, who resides on section seventeen, in the township of Harmony, was born near Madison, Dane county, Wisconsin, May 1, 1848, son of Ole and Astri (Felland) Scrabeck, who brought him to Minnesota in 1854. Until twenty-two years of age he remained at home on the farm and assisted his father, and also spent considerable time in learning the carpenter's trade. In 1868, he bought 40 acres in Bristol township, which he later disposed of, after which he purchased his present property in Harmony. This farm comprises 160 acres of valuable land, and is under a high state of cultivation, yielding large crops each year. Mr. Scrabeck has made many improvements

on his farm, and erected good buildings. He has grown more prosperous with each succeeding year, as the well cared for home and farm bear witness. In addition to his Harmony farm, he owns a tract of land in Pipestone county, this state, which is operated by one of his sons. Politically, Mr. Scrabeck affiliates with the Republican party and he has served, for some time on the school board in district 39. On December 18, 1879, he was united in marriage with Geloine A. Olsen, born May 15, 1862, daughter of Christ and Aagot (Ligarden) Olsen. To this union were born four children: Oscar is deceased; Christian Elmer married Bertha Hetzel and lives in Harmony; Alfred is at home; and George Tillman married Mathilda Losen and resides in Pipestone county. The family are members of the Lutheran church and contribute toward the support of that body.

Ole Scrabeck and his good wife, Astri (Felland) Scrabeck were born in Norway and in that country grew up, were educated and fitted for useful citizens. The former came to America in 1843 and the latter two years later. They settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they met and were married. In the spring of 1854 they came to Minnesota and located in Bristol township, there purchasing 160 acres of government land. They later disposed of 40 acres, and broke and developed the remainder, planted crops and carried on general farming. They built a comfortable home and good outbuildings and overcame many difficulties, which were a part of the life of pioneers at that time. In 1885 they moved from the farm into the village of Harmony, there to spend the rest of their lives. The mother was summoned by death September 16, 1911. They were the parents of eleven children: Ole O., of Harmony township; Gunder, Carrie, now Mrs. Wosted, also of Harmony; George, of St. Louis county; Samuel, on the old homestead in Bristol; Carl, of Harmony village; Gertrude, now Mrs. Gilbert, of Rochester, Minn. and John, at home with his father. Three died in infancy.

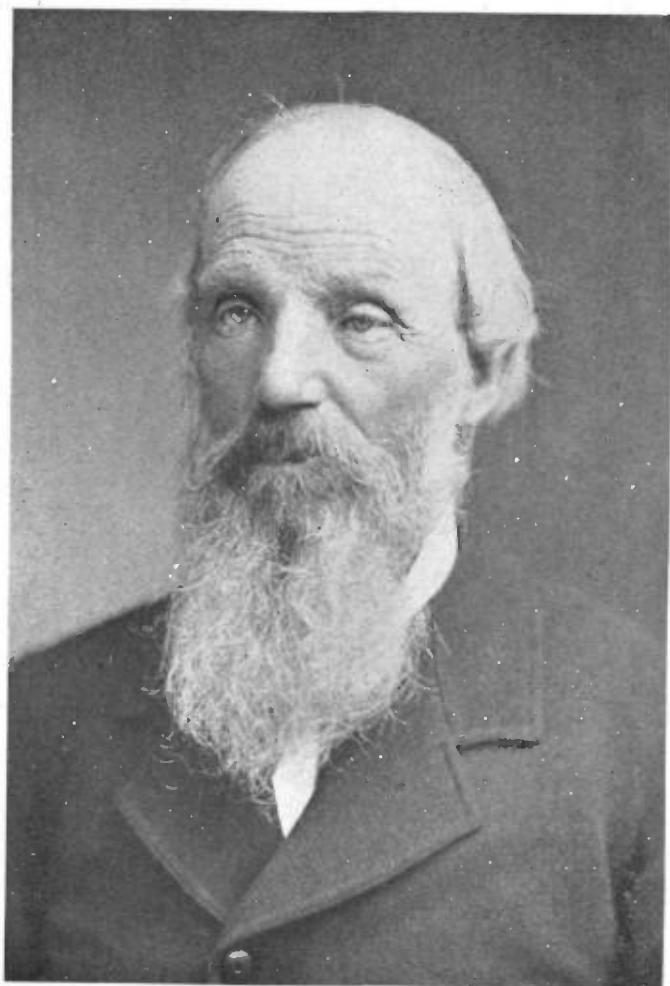
Christian Olsen was born in Ragstad, Norway, May 15, 1834, came to America in June, 1854, and resided in Racine county, Wisconsin, where he met his wife Aagot Ligarden, who was born in Tinn, Norway, September 19, 1832, and came to Racine county, Wisconsin, in August of the same year. They were married in Muskego, Wis., June 16, 1858, and in 1860 came to Fillmore county and located in Bristol township. In 1867 he purchased 120 acres in Harmony township where he built a good and comfortable home, and where they resided until 1904 when he built a comfortable home in Harmony village, to which they moved, November 30, 1904. Mrs. Olsen died December 31, of

that year. Mr. and Mrs. Olsen were blessed with ten children, all of whom were baptized in the Greenfield Lutheran church, with the exception of the oldest, who was baptized in Muskego, Wis. Mrs. Martha Ellis lives in Wendte, S. Dak. Mrs. Ella Johnson lives in Elgin, Ill. Mrs. Mary Williams lives in Lanesboro, Minn. Henry E. lives in Kerkhoven, Minn. Theodore A. resides on the home place. Gunder, Mrs. Geloine Scrabeck, Mrs. Oliva Hegg, and Mrs. Caroline Kwammen live in Harmony township. Theo. L. lives with her father in Harmony village.

**John Gill**, a territorial pioneer, was born in Wilmington, Del., in 1824. When only one year old he was taken by his parents to Pennsylvania where he received a good education and there remained until 1839. Subsequently he moved to Ohio and there learned and engaged in the manufacture of brick, remaining in Ohio until 1856. That year he came to Minnesota, locating in Forestville township, where he pre-empted land and also engaged in the manufacture of brick with his yards at Forestville, this brick being the first that was manufactured in Fillmore county. The brick in the original body of the Court house at Preston and those in the residence and store now owned by T. J. Meighen of Forestville, are of his manufacture. Mr. Gill served in several of the town offices and was always interested in the welfare of his town and community in which he lived and died. He was married in Ohio to Margaret Jane Riddle, a native of that state, and they were the parents of nine children. He died in 1896 and the wife and mother passed away in 1907.

**Alvin West**, one of Forestville's early settlers and most highly honored citizens, was born in Orange county, Vermont, December 1, 1811, and there received a thorough public school education, after which he learned the trade of shoemaking, which he followed in Vermont until 1843. That year he removed to Janesville, Wis., where he engaged at his trade, later going to Stoughton, Wis., building the first house in that town and also keeping the first hotel. In 1856 he came to Minnesota, took up land in section fifteen, Forestville, and engaged in farming. Mr. West was a man of sterling qualities and one of those citizens who are looked upon by his fellow men as a leader and guide, a man who was adapted and capable of performing the duties of the many responsible offices to which he was elected by his fellow men. It is worthy of note that he served as town clerk, assessor and treasurer for over twenty years, holding all three offices at the same time. This may be counted as remarkable as it was an honor which never was tendered to another man in Fillmore county and it bespeaks of the esteem and confidence





ALVIN WEST

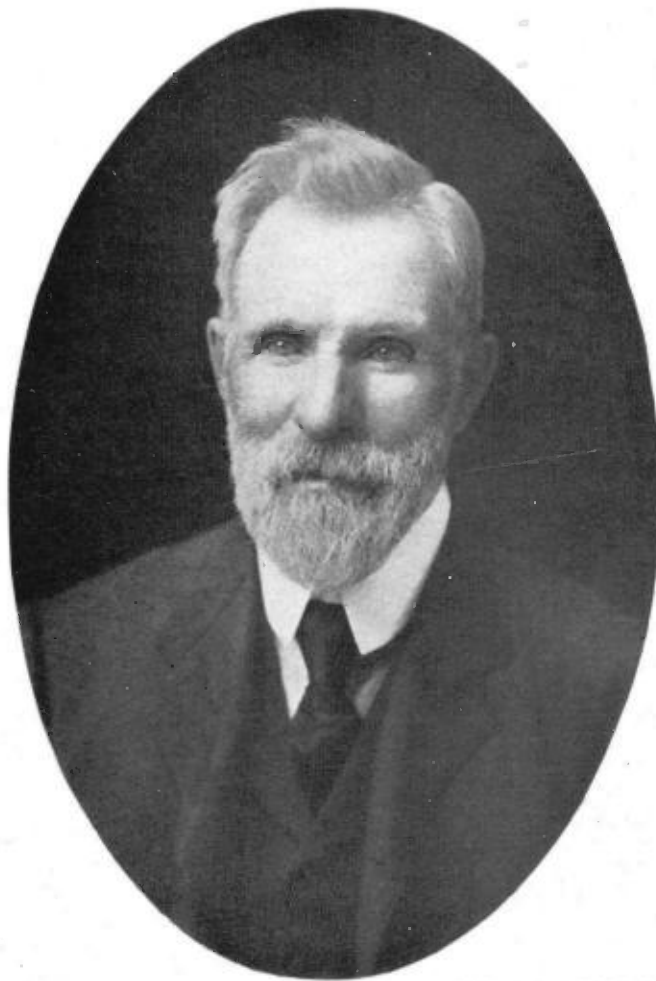
in which he was held by the public. For a great many years he also served as justice of the peace. The name of Alvin West will never pass from memory in Fillmore county. In 1883 he moved to Saratoga, Iowa, where he died October 15, 1895. Mr. West was first married in 1838 to Lucia Waterman, who died in 1853 at the age of forty-one years. They were the parents of two children, now both deceased. May 19, 1856 he was married to Melissa Groat, a native of Canada, born August 2, 1833. When she first came to the United States she located in Michigan, later going to Wisconsin where she met and married Mr. West. Three children blessed this union: Fred A., who died February, 1911; Fannie E. now Mrs. John C. Gill of Forestville township, and Jennie E. now Mrs. Charles Pickett of Riceville, Iowa. Jennie is the mother of five children, Maud, Lloyd, Leslie, Alice and Avis, deceased. Mrs. West now makes her home with her daughter Mrs. J. C. Gill of Forestville township.

John C. Gill, one of the progressive farmers of Forestville township, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, September 12, 1850, son of John and Margaret J. (Riddle) Gill, pioneers of 1856. John C., subject of this sketch, received his education in the district schools of Forestville township, coming here with his parents in 1856. After his school days he engaged with his father in farming and brick making and this vocation he followed until thirty-three years of age. At this time he purchased a farm in section 20, Forestville township, broke and improved the land, erected a commodious and comfortable home, and is now engaged in general diversified farming. He was married March 20, 1883, to Fannie E. West, born December 11, 1862, a daughter of Alvin and Melissa (Groat) West. Their home has been blessed with four children of whom three are living: Sadie B., Agnes M., and Fred W. Melissa L. died May 5, 1909. Politically Mr. Gill is a socialist.

Thomas Riddle, deceased, was one of the old and well remembered settlers of Forestville township and made this his home for more than fifty years. He was born in Steubenville, Ohio, October 15, 1835, and grew up and was educated in his home town. When twenty-three years of age he came to this county and settled in Forestville township where he homesteaded on section fourteen. The old homestead was his home the remainder of his life and is the present residence of his widow who finds it a pleasure to make the home of her young life the shelter of her declining years. At first a log house was built as was customary in the early days and later this was replaced by a frame house which five years later was burned, after which the

present home was built. Here Mr. Riddle cleared the land and made a good quarter section farm, and raised his family. On August 2, 1859, he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Paxton, a daughter of Addison Paxton, a prominent man of Muskingum county, Ohio. To this union were born five children. Emma married Polk Turner and now lives at Stacy, Minn. James C. was born August 2, 1863, and received his education in the common schools of the county. He had a desire to be in some business enterprise for himself and after a few years assisting his parents on the farm he went to the Dakotas where by close application to business he won the confidence of men of high financial standing and seven years ago undertook a business enterprise of his own in Kansas City which has proved an entire success. He now has his business thoroughly established and spends a part of each year at home with his mother. Johnny and Frank L. died in infancy. Laura married Henry Grabau of Chatfield. When the war broke out Thomas Riddle wished to serve his country in the army to preserve the Union. Believing he was not strong enough to stand the hardships of soldiers' duty the physicians refused to enlist him, much to his regret. In politics he was a Democrat and although a public spirited man he never sought public office. At five more than his three score years and ten he died September 30, 1910.

James Riddle, son of James and Elizabeth (Gill) Riddle, was born in Steubenville, Ohio, January 26, 1832. James Riddle, Sr., was a farmer in Ohio and came west to this county in 1853, locating on section fourteen, Forestville. He here carried on farming until his health failed and later lived in retirement until his death, which occurred in 1880. The subject of this sketch grew up in Ohio and there attended school until about sixteen years of age. He later learned the blacksmith trade in Steubenville in about two years. Having been bound out for three years, he bought his release from the third year and in company with several of his friends went to California gold fields. On reaching California Mr. Riddle prospected for some time. As his prospecting did not prove to be profitable he worked at his trade at various points in California and Nevada. After several years he went to British Columbia, where he worked at his chosen occupation in the mining districts. In 1869, having spent nineteen years in the far West, he decided to return east. Embarking at San Francisco he crossed the isthmus and landed in New York, after which he came directly to Forestville township and in 1874 bought eighty acres in section sixteen, where he still resides. Here for more than twenty years Mr. Riddle conducted a blacksmith shop and also followed general farming. He is a member of the Presbyte-



MR. AND MRS. MARTIN QUINN

rian Church, and, in politics, is a Socialist. In October, 1871, he married Barbara Graling, of Forestville, born in Germany, November 22, 1833. To them were born two children: Charles N., and Jane, who married Elmer Mensing. Mrs. Riddle died October 22, 1907. About seven years ago Mr. Riddle retired from active work and since that time he has lived on his farm with his son.

Charles N. Riddle was born in Forestville township December 9, 1873, son of James and Barbara (Graling) Riddle. He received his education in the common schools and later attended the Spring Valley High School for two years. Having completed his studies, the subject of this sketch returned home and relieved his father of the farm duties. He now carries on general farming and stock raising. To facilitate the handling of his sheep, he has the whole farm divided into well fenced tracts of small acreage and usually keeps on hand about 100 head. Mr. Riddle is an industrious and progressive citizen. He was one of the active advocates of the agricultural school in Spring valley and was instrumental in having his school district 170, of which he has been clerk for four years, take advantage of this school. He is at present a member of the associated board of the agricultural school. For three years he has been president of the Wykoff and Cherry Grove Telephone Company. He is a member of the Spring Valley Farmers' Shipping Association.

Martin Quinn, an enterprising farmer of Forestville township, was born in County Wexford, Ireland, September 16, 1835, son of John and Dorothy (Shaughnessy) Quinn, natives of County Wexford, Ireland. The father died in his native land in 1838, and in 1850 the mother, with her family, came to America and located in New York state for seven years, after which she removed to Wisconsin and there died in 1872. Martin Quinn, subject of this sketch, attended the schools of his native land, came to America with his mother in 1850, located in Oneida county, New York, for a period of five years, then removed to Herkimer county, New York, where he remained two years, after which he came west to Columbia county, Wisconsin, and there engaged in farming until 1863. That year he came to Minnesota and located in Forestville township on 160 acres in section fifteen, which he had previously purchased. Later, in 1866, he purchased 160 acres in section sixteen, on which he now resides. He first built a log shanty, in which the family lived for a few years, and then erected a frame house. He broke and improved his land, enlarged his house and, as he prospered, erected a fine set of outbuildings and added another 160 acres to his farm, making a total of 480 acres. On this farm he toiled and labored and by dint of hard

labor and untiring efforts forged ahead from year to year until now the conditions of his farm bespeak the thrift and good management of its owner. In 1910 he sold 160 acres of the farm, which leaves him 320 acres, where Mr. Quinn is living a practically retired life, his farm being managed by his son. He was married October 30, 1862, to Bridget O'Connor, born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1837, and this union has been blessed with eleven children, of whom seven are living: Dora, Mary, Cora, William, Matthew, Winnie and Bertha. Mary married James Healy, and they reside at Wykoff. Bertha married William Mulhern; they reside in Fillmore township.

Mr. Quinn has been one of the men who has ever taken an active part in the progress and advancement of his town and county and for forty-three consecutive years served as clerk of school district 155. He has served as chairman of the town board, also as one of its supervisors and has done efficient service as town clerk and justice of the peace. He is a stockholder in the Spring Valley, Wykoff and Chester creameries. He is also a stockholder in the First State Bank of Wykoff, and for a number of years served as one of its directors. The family faith is that of the Catholic Church.

Charles Frederick Graling, of Forestville, was born in this township August 28, 1876, son of Charles and Fredericka Graling, natives of Germany. He began the rudiments of his education in the country school near home and later attended Naperville Business College in Illinois. Mr. Graling then returned to his home in this county, and has since had charge of the old homestead, where he carries on general diversified farming. He is a member of the Prohibitionist party and has never sought public office. October 24, 1904, Mr. Graling married Edith Kruegel, of Forestville, and they are the parents of two sons: Roland, born June 1, 1906, and Everett, born May 10, 1911. Mr. Graling attends the Evangelical Church at Cherry Grove, is a respected member of that denomination, and one of its most active workers and supporters.

Charles Graling (deceased) will long be remembered as one of those pioneers whose industry and perseverance had much to do with the advancement and progress of early settlement in Fillmore county. He was born in Germany in 1827, and was educated in that country. In 1847 he came to America and settled first in New York, but later, in 1855, came to Minnesota and located in Forestville. Here he purchased 280 acres of government land, also seventy-five acres of timber. Shortly after this Mr. Graling started for California with a team of oxen and for three years



C. R. MORGAN AND FAMILY

he worked at mining in that state. He then came back on a pony and went to Philadelphia, where he had his gold coined. After this he returned to the farm in Forestville, which was largely covered with brush. He set about clearing the property, after which he broke the soil and began farming, at which occupation he continued for the rest of his life. To Mr. Graling and his wife, Fredericka Zoske, whom he married in Preston, seven children were born; Mary, now the wife of William Crandall, of Minneapolis; Charles F., farmer of Forestville township; Alice, who teaches in Everett, Wash.; Eva and Recca, now traveling in Europe; Florence, of Minneapolis, a teacher of music, and William, who is at home. Mr. Graling made many improvements on his home farm and erected the fine brick residence which now stands there. The wife and mother died December 13, 1901, and Mr. Graling's death occurred May 17, 1904.

Cortland R. Morgan, well known as a successful horticulturalist in Forestville, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, February 19, 1843, son of Rees and Rebecca (Reeder) Morgan. Mr. Morgan grew to manhood in Illinois and there acquired his education in the common schools, after which he went into the cattle business. For several years he continued in this occupation, buying and selling stock with his brother, David; and later he became a grain dealer, in which industry he remained for a period of seven years. In 1878 he came to Minnesota and located in Forestville township, where he entered into partnership with his father-in-law, Barnett Taylor, and for three years carried on a nursery and bee business. After dissolving partnership with Mr. Taylor, the subject of this biography bought the nursery business and also a farm in section fourteen, and here began the "Nursery Hill Fruit Farm." Until 1907 Mr. Morgan carried on this business, and he was most successful, but during the year mentioned his health failed and he was forced to discontinue active labor. He owns fifty-five acres, which are devoted to general farming and nursery interests, and of which twenty acres are in an orchard. Among the many varieties of apple trees which this orchard contains are Duchess, Wealthy, Northwestern Greenings, Patton's Greenings, Snow, Taylor Seedling, Plum Cider, Red Annis, Walbridge and McMeighns White. Mr. Morgan now carries on a general farming with some dairying, for which purpose he keeps Jersey cows. He also owns four good horses for general farm work and driving. On November 29, 1878, he married Alice L. Taylor, daughter of Barnett Taylor, one of the early settlers in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Morgan three children have been born: Jesse T., now a farmer near Alberta, Canada; Estelle, the wife of LeRoy Hard, of Alberta, Canada, and Weaver J., now



at home on the farm. Mr. Morgan is a Socialist, but has never cared for public offices, though he has been elected to serve as town clerk for ten years, school clerk for four years, and supervisor of the township for one year. Rees Morgan, father of Cortland Morgan, of Forestville, was a native of Pennsylvania, where he spent his early years and was educated. He studied and fitted himself for the profession of a lawyer and for many years followed this calling. He eventually moved to Illinois, where he became prominent in politics in the early fifties, and at one time superintendent of schools in La Salle county. He gave up the practice of law some time later and bought a farm, where he spent the remaining years of his life, and his death occurred in 1885. Mr. Morgan married Rebecca Reeder, a native of Ohio, and they became the parents of Cortland R., David Foster, Philander, Mary, Rebecca, Sarah, Laura and Nettie. Mrs. Morgan entered into rest in 1889.

John Foster, who has been elected to serve as supervisor of Forestville township for the past thirteen years, was born in this county, near Forestville village, on April 6, 1856, son of Major and Jane (Riddle) Foster. When a boy, the subject of this sketch attended the common school and assisted his father with the work on the home farm, and after he became eighteen years of age left his studies and devoted his time and attention to general farm work, thus preparing himself for a successful and prosperous farmer. He remained at home, working with his father until 1882, during which year he rented some land and engaged in agricultural industries on his own responsibility. Some years later Mr. Foster purchased 160 acres, which were located in section two, Forestville, and here he has since resided. He carries on general diversified farming, also stock raising and dairying, and makes a specialty of breeding blooded horses. He keeps Short-horn cattle, Shropshire sheep and many Duroc Jersey hogs, and he also is a poultry fancier. Mr. Foster has independent political opinions, but he has been prominently identified with various public offices in his township. On January 31, 1882, he was united in marriage with Martha Becker, who was born in Germany, November 11, 1861. She came to America when nine years old with her parents, Frederick and Johanna (Rakow) Becker. They located for four years in Galena, Ill., after which they came to Minnesota and located in Forestville township, where they spent the balance of their life in agricultural pursuits. He died in 1899 and the mother in 1897. To Mr. and Mrs. Foster have been born two children. Major was born in Forestville township November 16, 1882. He married Laura LeFever, of Bloomfield. Cora was born in Sherwood, Franklin county, Tennessee, August



MR. AND MRS. ABRAHAM L. SHELDON

7, 1884. She lives at home. The family worship at the Catholic Church, of which body they have for many years been loyal members.

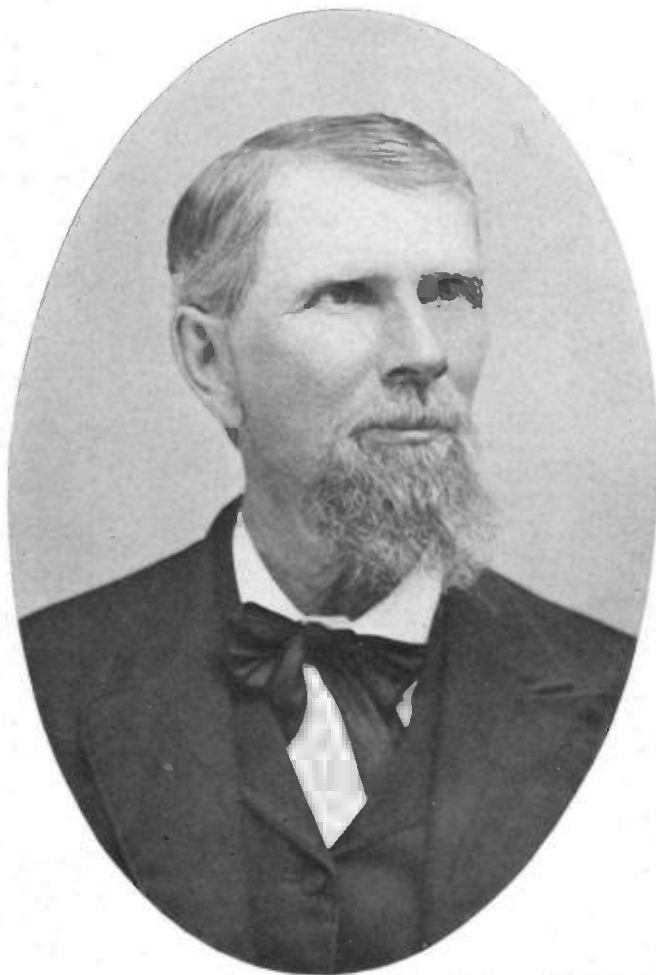
Major Foster, one of the early pioneers of Fillmore county, was born in Ohio in 1823. He grew to manhood in his native state and was there educated in the common schools. In 1854 Mr. Foster came west to Minnesota and located in Forestville, where he pre-empted land on which he lived for one year, after which he moved into the village of Forestville. Here he built the hotel, known as the Freemont House, and for fifteen years successfully conducted its business. In 1871 Mr. Foster again moved to a farm, located in section eleven, and there he passed the remainder of his days, dying on December 12, 1886. Mr. Foster married Jane Riddle, who was born in Ohio in 1829, and she bore him six children, of whom J. W. now lives in Stevens county, (this state; Catherine married William Meighen, deceased, and now resides in Wykoff; Sarah Elizabeth is the wife of H. A. Wilbright, of Hubbard county; John is a well known farmer in Forestville; Mary married Thomas Flynn, of Preston, and Josephine married D. F. Chandler, but is now deceased. The devoted wife and mother passed away on May 6, 1871.

Abraham L. Sheldon, retired farmer living in Forestville, was born in Vermont, October 16, 1830, son of Abraham C. and Marinda (Comfort) Sheldon, natives of that state. The father met with an accidental death in 1834, and the wife and mother came west from New York, where she had made her home for several years after the father's death. In 1856 the subject of this biography came to Minnesota, took a homestead in section twenty-nine, Forestville township, settled down to breaking the grub land, made many improvements, and erected a log house, where he resided for many years. His present comfortable dwelling was built in 1873. Mr. Sheldon underwent many of the hardships and privations which were a part of the lives of the early pioneers, but he toiled and prospered, each year overcoming difficulties and meeting with success. He enlisted in the volunteer service in 1864, during the month of March, and is now a pensioner. About 1891 Mr. Sheldon retired from active farm life and his son, Arthur L., has since conducted the home farm. For ten years he was employed by the Baptist Publication Society in southeastern Minnesota. At one time owning between 200 and 300 acres, he has now disposed of all but sixty-five. Politically, Mr. Sheldon is a member of the Prohibitionist party, and he has been selected to serve on the school board of district ninety-three for many years. In March, 1860, he was united in marriage with Mar-

garet Hueston, born in Canada, November 12, 1841, daughter of Thomas and Eleanor Hueston, both now deceased, and this union has been blessed with five children: Arthur L., a farmer in Forestville; Sarah, now Mrs. William Root, of Walla Walla, Wash.; Edna, the wife of Milo Benjamin, of Chicago; Winnie, a teacher, living at home, and Edith May, who died at the age of five years.

John Ryan, a prosperous and well known farmer who resides in Forestville township, was born in Carrolton, November 3, 1874. His parents, James and Winnefred (Constentine) Ryan, were married in Carrolton and there reared their family of five children: John, William, Margaret, who is now the wife of John L. Delaney; Mary, now Mrs. John Toomey, and Eliza, married to Thomas Travers. The father was of Irish birth and parentage and came to the United States with his father and mother in 1851. Upon their arrival here they came directly to Minnesota, where their son, James, grew to manhood and later married. He is living in Winona county at the present time, but his devoted wife passed away in 1895. John, the subject of this sketch, was brought up on the home farm and acquired his education in the country school. While not occupied with his studies, his time was spent working for his father on the farm. He married Jane Meighen, daughter of William and Catherine Meighen, and to them have been born the following: Catherine W., Margaret L., Mary F., John L., who died March 13, 1912, and James W. Mr. Ryan owns a large farm of 320 acres in sections two and three, which is well cared for, equipped with modern farming machinery. He engages in stock raising and dairying, and has a very fine residence, built in 1902, which is one of the beautiful landmarks of the township. In educational advancement and public improvements Mr. Ryan has ever taken an active interest, and assists not only financially but also in giving his time and labor.

Copeland Richardson, a retired farmer living in Forestville, was born March 9, 1837, in Clinton county, New York, son of Nathan and Hulda (Waters) Richardson, natives of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, respectively. The subject of this biography was educated in the common schools of New York and grew to manhood on his father's farm. At the age of sixteen he completed his studies, and then devoted his energies to farm work and, until he attained his majority, remained at home assisting his father. In 1856 he came west to Minnesota and settled in this county. He made this trip by boat from Ogdensburg to Milwaukee, and from there by stage to Burr Oak, Iowa. This was Mr. Richardson's second trip to Minnesota, as he had been here two years previous to ascertain whether this would be a desirable



MR. AND MRS. COPELAND RICHARDSON



JOHN MARZOLF AND FAMILY

place in which to establish his home. In 1859 he proved up a claim of 160 acres in sections thirty and thirty-one, Forestville, and there found a rude house of logs, which served as a home for twenty-three years. In 1882 he erected his present dwelling which is situated just north of the old house. For many years Mr. Richardson carried on general farming, cultivating his land, which was originally mostly wild prairie and timber. He later went into the cattle business raising Shorthorns, of which he now keeps but pure bred stock. He formerly raised hogs, preferring Poland-China and Chester Whites. Mr. Richardson purchased forty acres located in section thirty, which makes a total of 200 acres which he owns. In 1865 he enlisted in Company K, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and went to Chattanooga, where he remained until the close of the war. He is now a member of the Burdick Post, No. 3, G. A. R., of Spring Valley. He is an independent Republican. On April 28, 1858, he married Mary Eleanor Douglas, of New York, a native of Canada. To this marriage have been born Perry, of Bloomfield; Sarah; Nettie, now Mrs. Arne LeFever; Luella May, deceased at the age of eighteen; Herbert Washington, of Bloomfield; Clark Douglas, of Spring Valley township; Ernest, who died in infancy, and Roy Copeland, at home. The devoted wife and mother entered into rest on January 8, 1911. Mr. Richardson has served as assessor and was school clerk for thirty years. He owns stock in the Spring Valley Creamery, and also in a creamery in Iowa.

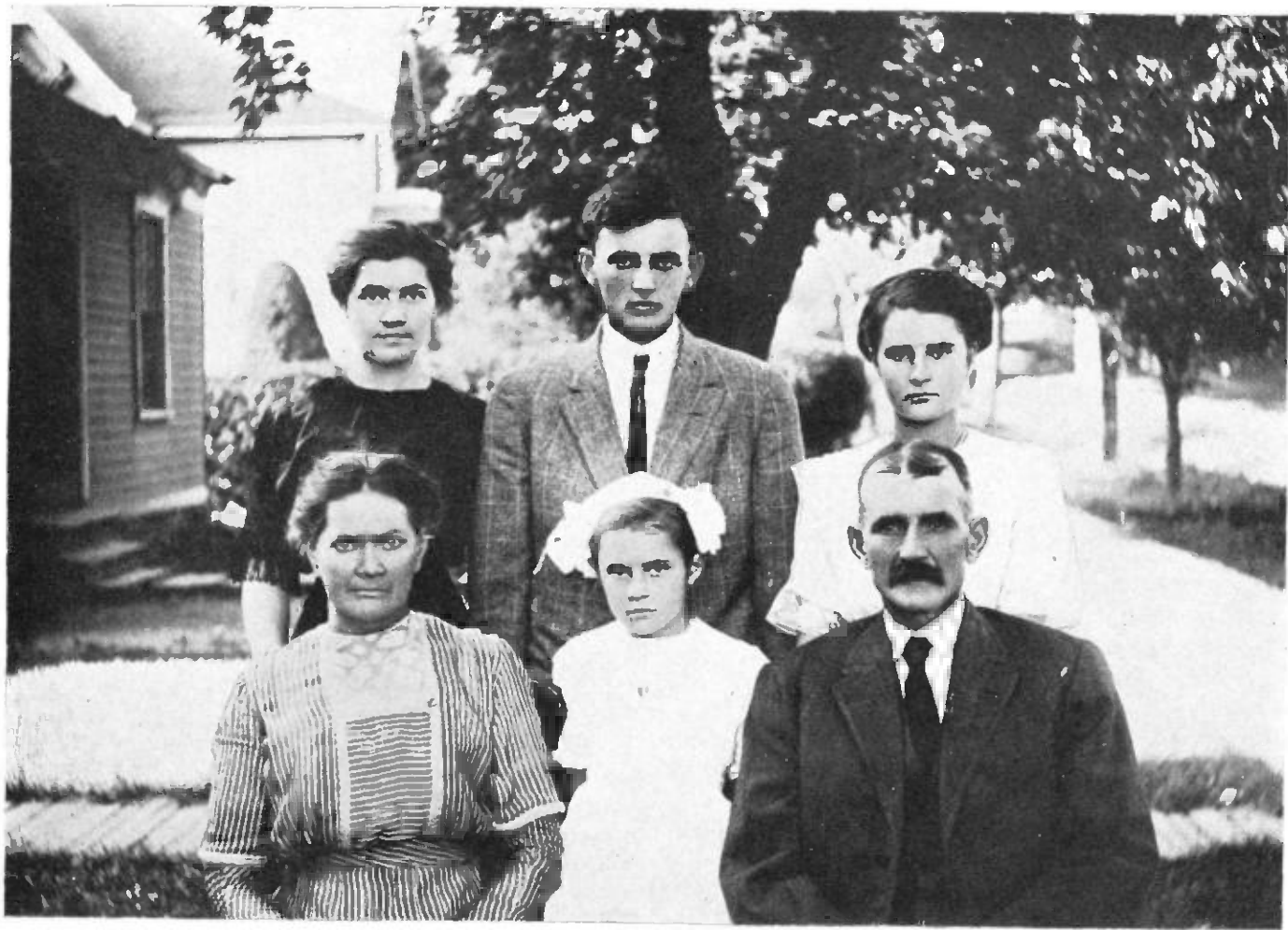
John Marzolf, for nearly forty years an influential resident of Carimona, was born in Alsace, Germany, November 9, 1851, son of John, Sr., and Katie Marzolf, and came to the United States in 1871 at the age of twenty years. After working in Illinois for a period of ten weeks he came to Minnesota, and worked a year for his uncle, Michael Marzolf, in Preston township. About this time, in 1872, the parents arrived with the two other children, Michael and Eva, and purchased the Colburn farm, in section 13, Carimona township, where they farmed the remainder of their days, the father dying in 1901 and the wife and mother in 1897. John, the subject of this sketch, has devoted his life to farming. He owns a fine farm of 200 acres adjoining the old homestead, and has made it one of the well-improved and modern farms of the community, having erected a large comfortable home and convenient barns and outbuildings, which mark his place as the home of one of the prosperous and industrious farmers of the township. Mr. Marzolf is a communicant of the German Lutheran church, and is prominently identified with the Iowa Lutheran Society of that church. He was married in 1882 to Lizette Ohmacht, who was born in Preston township,

February 11, 1863, and they are the parents of six children: Jacob, living in Canada; John, a resident of Chatfield; Mary, the wife of Adam Kern; Herman, living in Canada; Arnold R. and Oscar W., at home. Mrs. Marzolf was the daughter of Carl F. and Hanna (Rode) Ohmacht, natives of Mecklenburg, Germany. They came to America in 1854 and lived in Illinois until coming to Fillmore county in 1856, when they settled at Big Spring, section thirty-two, Preston township, where they spent the remainder of their days, the father dying in 1902 and the mother in 1871. In the Ohmacht family are eight children. Of these, the son Charles still lives on the old homestead, having the original farm of 152 acres, and enough in addition to make a fine place of two hundred acres.

**E. S. Holton** was born in Carimona township, this county, June 10, 1861, son of William and Mary (McGown) Holton, the former being a native of Crawford county, Pennsylvania, who came to Minnesota in 1855, and located in Carimona where he acquired a farm in section four. E. S., the subject of this sketch, has spent practically his whole life on the farm where he was born and reared. As a youth he attended the district school near his home and assisted his father. April 17, 1887, he married Agusta Wagner, a daughter of Daniel Wagner, and their marriage has been blessed with four children: Mary A., William D., Julia and Laura. Mr. Holton carries on general and dairy farming and his farm has been improved and made more productive each year by constant industry and care. In the many offices of the township he has given efficient service and is the present town clerk of Carimona, having also been a member of the town, school and creamery boards at different intervals for several years. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., of the M. W. A., and also the A. O. U. W. He is one of the stockholders in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Preston, and one of the progressive men in the county. His farm, which comprises 500 acres, is one of the most extensive in the township.

**Thomas Healy** was born in Carimona township, where he now resides, July 6, 1866, son of Thomas and Mary (Kelly) Healy, natives of Ireland, who came to the United States in the early days, met and were married in Syracuse, N. Y., and then came west to Minnesota. Thomas, the subject of this biography, was reared on his father's farm, and attended the country school near his home. After reaching manhood's estate, he began farming on his own responsibility and later was married to Nora Callan, daughter of Martin and Mary (Flannery) Callan of Fountain township. To Mr. and Mrs. Healy four children have been





E. S. HOLTON AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. JEROME UTLEY

born, Mary F., Bernard P., Clara M., and Thomas M. Mr. Healy is engaged in general farming together with dairying and makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle and Oxford sheep. His well improved farm comprises 180 acres of tillable soil, which by careful cultivation is rendered more productive each year. He has been honored by the people in his township by being elected to serve in many offices of trust and responsibility, among which are chairman of the board of supervisors, clerk of the school board, and justice of the peace, in which latter office he has given excellent satisfaction for twenty years. Mr. Healy belongs to the Knights of Columbus, in which order he is a popular member. He is a stockholder of the Farmers' Elevator of Preston, also of the Co-operative Creamery Association. The family worships at the Roman Catholic church.

Charles Utley, one of the many prosperous farmers who reside in the township of Carimona, was born May 8, 1878, son of Jerome and Lydia (Day) Utley. He spent his boyhood days on the old homestead, and attended the neighborhood district school and the Preston high school. Early in life he began to fit himself for the occupation of a farmer, and as he grew older, he gradually assumed the management of the home farm which he now successfully conducts. Active in public affairs, he has been treasurer of the town; a believer in the betterment of farm conditions, he is now secretary-treasurer and manager of the Preston creamery; and being of a fraternal disposition, he has allied himself with Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Utley's industrious habits and farsightedness have won him an enviable place in the community, and he is respected by all with whom he has to deal. He married Elizabeth Hutton, daughter of David and Mary (Vickerman) Hutton, and they have three children: Douglas, Esther and Ruth.

Jerome Utley, one of the early settlers, and in times past a prominent official of Fillmore county, was born in Tioga county, New York, May 4, 1835, son of Elijah and Louisa B. (Tidd) Utley, natives of New York state, where they both lived. Jerome received his early education in the schools of Tioga county, Pennsylvania, and at the age of seventeen years started working out for himself. In 1856, at twenty-one years of age, he came to Minnesota, and located on section 1, Carimona township, where he took a claim of 160 acres and paid 60 per cent interest for money to pre-empt it with. He broke and developed this land, built a home, and followed general diversified farming. He is still living on the same homestead, making his home with his son Charles. The subject of this sketch enlisted in 1864, in

Company B, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He served as county commissioner six years and was chairman of that body five years. He was also chairman of the board of supervisors of his town for several years. He was married January 17, 1859, to Lydia E. Day, a native of Broom county, New York, and they are the parents of eight children. Mary L. is now Mrs. N. E. Barnes, of Carimona. Ida M. is dead. Nellie J., wife of Mr. Fred Calkins, is dead. Hattie and Anna B. are also deceased. George L. lives at home. Charles H. conducts the home farm. Lillie E., who married A. M. Hopeman, died March 5, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Hopeman were both graduated from the Preston high school and from the Minnesota State University, the former being a civil engineer. Mrs. Jerome Utley passed away April 21, 1907. Her mother, born in Groton, Conn., May 27, 1819, is still living, and on May 27, 1912, passed her ninety-third year.

**John Sikkink**, now deceased, was born in the Netherlands, and came to the United States in 1867. After living in Wisconsin eight years he came to this county and located in section thirty-three, Carimona, where he carried on farming for some years. In 1893 he went to Holland, Nebr., and lived there until 1898, when he went to Hinkley, Minn., where he remained until 1903, when he returned to this county and lived with his son on the home farm until his death, June 1, 1904. His widow, who was Janne Onnink, still lives in Holland, Nebr.

**J. B. Sikkink**, a successful farmer of Carimona township, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born near Cedar Grove, in that state, January 20, 1871, son of John and Janne (Onnink) Sikkink, natives of the Netherlands. He was brought to Carimona by his parents as a small boy, and attended school in district 71, near the home place. Early in life he applied himself to learning the duties which constitute the success of a farmer's life. In 1893 he rented the home farm, and in 1903 purchased it. The place is well equipped with the necessary machinery, and the comfortable dwelling house and substantial outbuildings are convincing evidence of the good management and farsightedness of Mr. Sikkink. At various intervals he has served in public offices of various sorts, and is now a member of the board of supervisors of his town. The subject of this sketch was married January 4, 1894, to Dena Te Selle, born in Holland, Nebr., March 4, 1875, and this union has been blessed with seven children. They are: Mary Jane, born December 6, 1894; Anna I., April 13, 1897; Lizzie I., November 4, 1901; Ella L., February 25, 1903; Laura R., April 2, 1905; John A., August 12, 1907; Cleora May,



S. F. MINER AND FAMILY

November 7, 1911. The family faith is that of the Dutch Reform church at Greenleafston.

**Hans E. Barnum**, of Carimona township, was born at Telemarken, Norway, September 12, 1856, son of Austin and Anne (Berge) Barnum, natives of Telemarken, where they spent their lives. Hans E. attended school in Norway, and when twenty-three years of age, embarked for America. On April 15, of that year, he arrived in this county and immediately located in Bristol township, there remaining for a period of one year. In 1880 he went to North Dakota, there taking a claim, which he homesteaded and where he carried on agricultural operations until 1892. During the latter year, he returned to Fillmore county, and has since made his home here. He bought 215 acres located on sections thirty-four and thirty-five, Carimona and on section two in Bristol. This property he has greatly improved, erecting good buildings, a fine and comfortable house and commodious barns, and as the years have rolled by he has grown prosperous. That he has succeeded in his chosen occupation is evidenced by the trim and well cared for appearance of his home and farm, with its broad acres under cultivation and its equipment of farm machinery. On this place a specialty is made of breeding Polled-Angus cattle. Politically Mr. Barnum is affiliated with the Republican party but he has devoted his time and attention to managing his farm rather than seeking public office. He is a member of the Greenfield Lutheran church. In November, 1886, Mr. Barnum married Susan Applen, and to them have been born three children, Anna, Clarence, and Emma, who died at fourteen years of age. Through the years of their married life, the devoted wife and mother proved a real helpmeet, and she will long be remembered by her husband and children as an example of unselfishness and loving service. Her death occurred November 20, 1910.

**S. F. Miner**, one of the estimable citizens of Fillmore county, in whose development and progress he has assisted in various ways, has been a resident of Carimona township some fifty years, and in all that time has maintained a reputation as a desirable citizen and a good neighbor. He was born in Harmony, Chautauqua county, New York, August 15, 1840, son of William F. and Emily (Buckingham) Miner, both born in Vermont of Scotch parentage. The subject of this sketch received his early schooling in his native state, and learned the principles of successful farming from his father. At the age of twenty-two years he came to Minnesota, and purchased a farm in section thirteen, Carimona township, this county. Later he removed to section

twenty-four, where he still resides. He has erected a comfortable home and the necessary outbuildings, and has brought his farm to a high state of cultivation. For the past fifteen years he has been a representative of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Harmony, and has done a considerable amount of business in this line of work. Owing to the severity of the weather in Minnesota, Mr. Miner has spent the past ten winters in Fruitdale, Ala., where he has many friends, and where he passes the cold months most pleasantly. Mr. Miner's life has been an active and useful one. When the Farmers' Elevator was projected in Preston he was one of its most ardent supporters, and himself sold no less than seventy-two shares in the venture, insuring to a large degree its success. For a time he was identified with the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Fountain, as director and stockholder, and he has labored ardently for the cause of farmers' co-operation in this part of the county. In 1887-1888 he had the honor of serving as president of the Fillmore County Agricultural Society. In his town he has occupied several political offices and has been town supervisor for many years. In addition to his holdings in Fillmore county, he owns considerable property in Oklahoma. Mr. Miner was married July 5, 1860, to Clarissa M. Daniels, born in Chautaugua county, New York, January 8, 1840, daughter of Lyman and Angeline (Green) Daniels, natives of New York. The Miner home has been blessed with two children: Emma Ann and Everett. Emma Ann was born March 21, 1864, and died in July, 1906. She married Charles Voorhies, and left one son, Clarence, who is now in Schuyler county, Missouri. Everett A. was born June 29, 1870, and married Minnie Durst. He lives in Waukokee, and has two children: Alice Marie and Sidney Bryan.

Fred Young, one of the successful farmers of Carimona, was born in Addison, Steuben county, New York, July 21, 1830. His parents, Martin and Lottie (Martin) Young were early settlers in Carimona, having come here in the early fifties, and settled in section sixteen. The father was born in Germany and came to America with his parents when a young man, locating in New York, where he was married, and later in life he came to Minnesota. In 1856 Fred, the son, left New York and came to Carimona for the purpose of looking after lands which had been purchased by residents of New York. He returned to the state where he was born and later, in 1860, came again to Minnesota and worked for his father on the farm. He enlisted in Company A, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, in 1863 but did not join his regiment until the following year. He was with Sherman in the famous "March to the Sea" and in July, 1865, received an

honorable discharge, having been wounded in the battle of Bentonville, S. C. After his discharge he returned to his home in Minnesota, where he now resides, and resumed his occupation of farming. He married Frances Wilson, daughter of Thomas Wilson, and this marriage has been blessed with five children: Eugene, Edna, Dell, Edith, and May (deceased). Eugene lives in the village of Carimona. Edna married John Shafer, of Carimona township; Dell conducts the home farm, is a well-known citizen, and has served as town assessor two years; Edith lives at home. Mr. Young, in the earlier days of his life, was a mechanic of more than ordinary ability and he was well known for his excellent work as a cooper. He is now a member of the Underwood Post, No. 122, G. A. R., and has ever been an industrious man, respected for his many admirable qualities. It is interesting to note that Mr. Young's grandfather Young was in the Hessian troops of the British forces, and his grandfather Martin in the Colonial forces under General George Washington, during the Revolution, and the subject of this sketch has been on the very ground at Yorktown where his grandfathers fought against each other, and where Cornwallis surrendered to Washington.

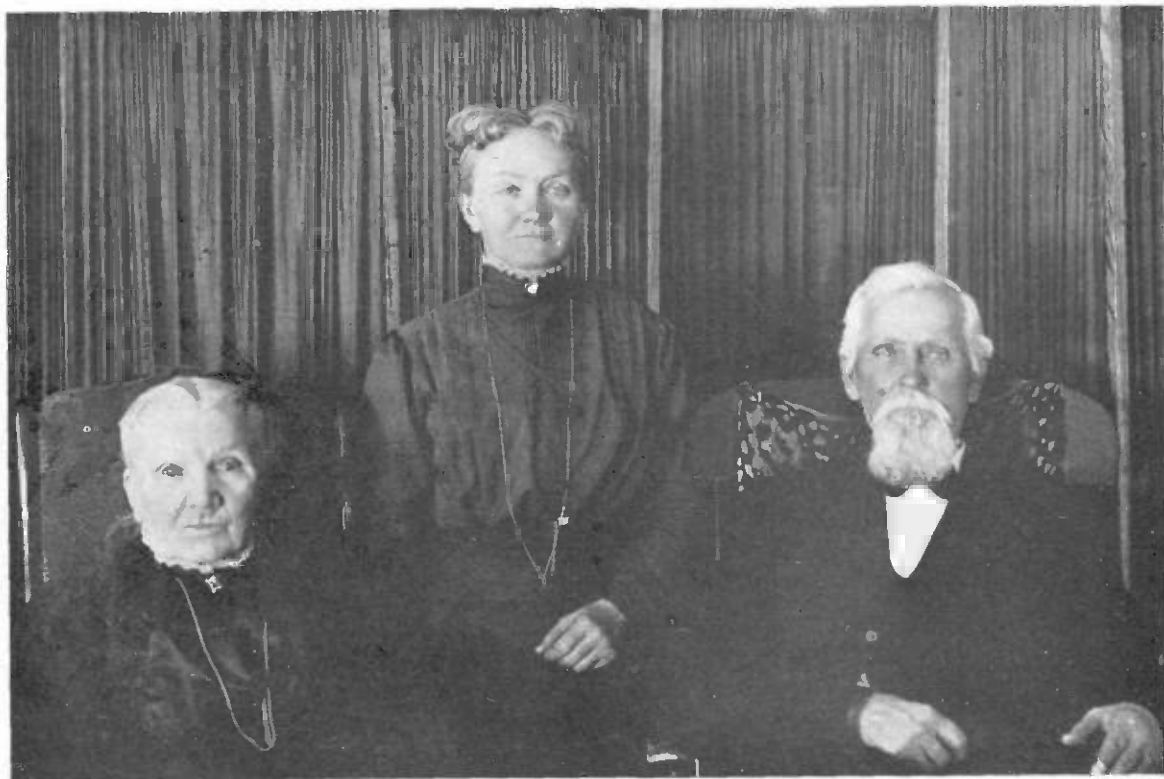
**George Ibach** was born in Baden, Germany, son of Joseph and Mary Ibach, and came to the United States with his parents in 1853, remaining for one year in Buffalo, where he went to public school, after which the family came west to Iowa, and two years later to Minnesota, where they settled in Carimona township. George, the son, attended school in district sixty-seven in the fall of 1860, and was employed by his father, who required his help with the work necessary for the upkeep and improvement of the home farm. He married Julia Schwab, who is also of German parentage and birth, and they are the parents of the following: Helen, the wife of R. Greben; Mary, married to W. R. Parker; Louise, now Mrs. Ben Eck; Clara, the wife of Frank Cameron; Florence, now Mrs. John P. Fields; Walter; Isabel; Annie, now Mrs. C. Wentmer, and Lorin. Mr. Ibach, at the beginning of the Civil War, enlisted in Company B, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and participated in all the battles, campaigns and skirmishes of that regiment. He never failed in a single duty, and was always ready to volunteer for any service that promised service for his country, pleasing adventure or healthy exercise. For six months and eleven days he was confined in a Confederate prison. During his service he was elected first sergeant, but five votes in the entire company being cast for his opponent. After serving four years and four months he was honorably discharged in January, 1866, and returned to his home in Minnesota, where, owing to the disability of the father, he



assumed charge of the home farm. The father died in 1883. The homestead now comprises 160 acres, and in addition to this Mr. Ibach owns forty-two acres, all of which are in a careful state of cultivation and show the result of years of frugality and perseverance.

**Fernando C. Wood**, a progressive farmer of Carimona, has been a resident of that township since 1867. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, September 28, 1843, son of Nelson and Maria (Sharp) Wood, the former of whom was born November 7, 1805, and died July 29, 1885, and the latter of whom was born May 20, 1809, and died November 22, 1886. The father came west to Minnesota early in 1867 and settled in Carimona township on section nine, where he purchased a farm which was worked and cared for by the son, Fernando C. The subject of this biography was educated in New York and there reached his majority. He married Margaret O. Hendershott, born in Steuben county, New York, December 1, 1850, and to this marriage have been born: Frederick, residing in Minneapolis; Julia, who died in infancy; May, who married Peter Wilson, and has three sons, Harry W., Roy F. and Fred; William D., of Carimona, who married Bertha Statler, and has had two children, Marion C. and Violet M.; and Julia Carini and Clarissa, who are deceased. Mr. Wood's farm comprises eighty acres, of which one-half is in timber, and he is interested in general diversified farming, together with dairying. He has made many improvements on his property and has made it more productive and valuable each year. He belongs to Preston Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F.

**James Thompson**, of Fountain township, is one of the early pioneers in this county. He was born in Canada April 1, 1836, and came to the States about 1859, stopping for a few days in Chatfield, Minn., and from there going on to Jordan, where he rented a log house and here with his family lived for two years. He then moved to Fountain and lived in Rev. Hitchcock's home for a period of five months, the owner having gone east for a visit. In 1861 Mr. Thompson purchased a farm in section four and engaged in agricultural industries. His house was made of logs, but was soon replaced by a frame dwelling of substantial dimensions and modern architecture. This home was not entirely satisfactory to Mr. Thompson, and as the years passed and his labors on the farm were rewarded with prosperity, he built a larger and more pretentious residence, in which he lives at the present time. He married Anna Gorrid, daughter of John and Julia (Golt) Gorrid, and to them has been born a daughter, Lucy, who married William H. Page. Mr. Page was a butter



MR. AND MRS. JAMES THOMPSON—MRS. LUCY PAGE

maker for many years in Fountain, and later in life operated a farm in Chatfield township. He died January 7, 1908, and his widow, Mrs. Lucy Page, lives with her parents and has the responsibility of managing the home farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Page three children were born: Anna L., a milliner; Melvina J., a student at the Southern Minnesota Normal College of Austin, and Bertha S., a student of the Fountain High School. Mr. Thompson and his estimable wife are enjoying a life of retirement and comfort which is well deserved and their friends are many. Mrs. Page, their daughter, is recognized as a capable business woman, and is respected for her good qualities and common sense.

**John Kemple**, a progressive farmer, has been a resident of Minnesota since the spring of 1861. He was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1842, son of John and Margaret (Ginter) Kemple. The earlier years of his life were spent in the county where he was born, and there he grew up, attending school and acquiring the rudiments of his education. In 1860 he started for the West, stopping en route in Illinois, where he spent the winter. The following spring he arrived in Preston, and in this city remained for three years. In 1864 Mr. Kemple bought a farm located in section thirty-four, township of Fountain, and began carrying on general farming. In November, 1863, he married Mary Jane Sturgeon, born at Sheboygan Falls, Wis., June 2, 1847, and to them have been born five children: Charles J., Robert L., Effie, Thomas H. and Ella, deceased. Effie married Cory Means, and they have two children, Lottie and William. Thomas H. married Emma Picket, and they are the parents of five children: Lulu, Hazel, Russell, Bulah and Louis. Mr. Kemple has a productive place, which is well tilled, and he engages in stock raising and general farming. His many good qualities have placed him in the high esteem of his fellow men, and his friends are many.

**A. H. Peterson** is well known in the town of Fountain as a popular merchant, and his store in that village is well stocked and meets the demands of the large trade which patronizes it. Mr. Peterson has always lived in this vicinity, having been born in the township, on section twenty-two, January 7, 1860, son of Norwegian parents. His father, Hans, came from the old country about 1854 and upon his arrival in the United States proceeded to Illinois, where he spent a year, after which he came west and settled in Minnesota, passing the remainder of his life in the township of Fountain. A. H. was brought up on his father's farm and attended the district school, his early career being similar to that of other boys who live on farms. In 1910 he moved into the village and entered the mercantile business, in which he is highly

regarded and most successful. He married Lizzie Learberg, and to them four children have been born: Bertha, Harvey, Arthur and Eva, all at home. In the various public offices of the township, Mr. Peterson has been prominently identified, serving as a member of the board of supervisors for a period of four years, as well as holding offices of minor importance. His business ability and good judgment have contributed greatly to his success and popularity, while his habits of industry and perseverance have aided him financially. He attends the Lutheran Church.

**Calvin S. Powers**, writer, lecturer, scientist and sculptor, now deceased, was a native of Canada, his father being a native of Vermont and his mother of Ireland. A self-educated man, he early in his life turned his attention to the study of literature and science, and for many years was editor of the "New Castle (Canada) Garland." In 1858 he gave up this position to become a lecturer, and in this capacity traveled in many localities, acting at the same time as a reporter for a Toronto paper. In 1860 he located in Wisconsin, remaining a few months, after which he moved to Minnesota and settled on a farm in Fillmore county. For many years he was identified with the Republican party, but in 1876 endorsed the Greenback movement and was one of its staunchest supporters. Two years later he became editor of the "Dollar Weekly," a paper published at Wykoff in the interest of the Greenback party. The following year, the "Fillmore County Radical" was established and Mr. Powers became the editor. He twice represented his district in the state senate and was a man possessed of a great variety of ability. Together with his gift of oratory he evidently inherited some of that talent displayed so markedly by his distant kinsman, Hiram Powers, the eminent sculptor, for in the later years of his life he devoted his time to working in marble, being decidedly facile in this artistic profession. His death occurred June, 1896, and was profoundly mourned by sincere friends and by the residents of the community and county.

**Henry Graskamp**, a prominent farmer and dairyman, was born in Germany, April 15, 1862, son of Diedrich and Mary (Koop) Graskamp, who brought him to America in 1869 when he was seven years old. Before coming to Fillmore county he lived with his parents near La Crosse, Wis. After reaching this country, at about the age of sixteen years, he attended school in a district near Spring Valley, and after attaining suitable years, left school and went to work on his own responsibility, helping farmers in that vicinity for some five years. He now owns 160 acres in section five, Fountain, and 160 acres in section eight, in the same



HENRY GRASKAMP AND FAMILY

township. He devotes much of his time to the raising of stock and takes particular pride in his Durham cattle, his specialties being dairying and the raising of grain. His commodious dwelling house and substantial outbuildings bear witness to the thrift and success of their owner, and the excellent condition of the farm shows that Mr. Graskamp is industrious and energetic. He has been identified with many of the public offices of the township, and is vice-president, agent and director of the German-American Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company, representing that company in Mower, Olmsted and Fillmore counties. He married Ida Matilda Brandt, of German birth and parentage, and this union has been blessed with eight children, the living being Edward D., Fred, Frank, Mary, Ernest and Walter.

Fred D., the oldest, completed a common school course in the graded schools of Fountain, and during the winter of 1906-07 spent a few months as a student in the Globe Business College at St. Paul. In the spring he returned to Fillmore county and took up work on the farm. The following winter he spent as a student in the Southern Minnesota Normal College, of Austin, Minn., and remained there until the summer of 1908. After proving himself a successful teacher in the rural schools of Polk county, Minnesota, he again took up the courses at the Southern Minnesota Normal College. Through diligent study he was deemed worthy of graduation in the spring of 1910, receiving the degree of bachelor of accounts, and having the honor of being the president of his class. Desiring a still better education he took a post-graduate course in science at the same institution. He is now an efficient teacher in the school of district No. 75, Fillmore county.

Fred, in 1907, completed a common school course in the graded schools of Fountain. After that he remained on the farm to take up duties as they faced him until the close of 1911, when he became proprietor of the Preston Livery and Feed Stable in Preston.

Frank, Mary, Ernest and Walter are attending school, being under age and at home.

Among the dead are Louesie, who lived less than two days, and another little girl, who lived but a few hours.

Diedrich Graskamp, a retired farmer now living in Wykoff, was born in Germany, and there married Mary Koop. In 1869 he came to America, bringing his wife and children, and locating in Bostwig Valley, near La Crosse, Wis., where, after being employed at various occupations, he took up farming. In 1878 he brought his family to Minnesota and settled near Spring Valley, where he rented a farm which he worked for several years, event-

ually purchasing property south of Wykoff, which he worked for a number of years, finally selling to his son, Charles, and moving to Wykoff, where he now lives in retirement.

**A. W. Powers, M. D.**, prominent citizen and successful physician of the village of Fountain, was born in New Castle, upper Canada, March 31, 1850, son of Calvin S. and Mary (Bailey) Powers. He came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1860, and that same year on to Minnesota, where they settled in the town of Carimona. Dr. Powers attended school in Waukoee and as he grew to manhood entered the office of Dr. Redman, of Preston, where for a time he studied medicine, later going to Chicago, where he attended the Rush Medical College. During his studies in this institution the college was destroyed by fire, and he completed his medical course in Cook County Hospital. In February, 1872, he opened an office in Fountain, where he has since established a large practice, being most successful in his chosen profession. He married Justina Bickford, daughter of Ira Bickford, a native of New Hampshire, and to this union have been born: Fred, of Texas; Alta, who is assistant principal in the Fountain grammar school; Glenn C. S., a student in the Upper Iowa University; Elsie and Albert, deceased. Dr. Powers has been town clerk of Fountain for the past thirty years and is now mayor of that village. At the time that his father was in the senate he acted as clerk for that assembly. He is a member of the Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., and also belongs to the M. W. A. and the Royal Neighbors.

**D. J. Danielson**, a retired merchant, residing in the village of Fountain, was born in Norway, May 15, 1863, and came to the United States with his parents, Edward and Christine Danielson, in 1872. For six years after their arrival in this country the family made their home in Chatfield township, this county, after which they moved to the township of Fountain, locating in section seventeen, where the father carried on general farming. The wife and mother passed away in 1882, and the father has disposed of his farm and now makes his home with his son, Carl, of Fountain township. D. J., the subject of this biography, passed the days of his youth in attending school and working for his father on the farm, remaining at home with his parents until he became eighteen years old, at which time he became a clerk in a general store at Fountain, working five years for Bellus & Case, and four years for their successor, A. Peterson. After severing his connection with Mr. Peterson he secured a position as clerk for E. K. Blexrud. Six years later, when Mr. Blexrud was elected sheriff, Mr. Danielson, in partnership with his brother-in-law,



RASMUS JOHNSON AND FAMILY



O. N. Thorson, purchased the Blexrud business. For ten years this partnership continued, and then Mr. Danielson assumed entire charge of the store and conducted the business on his own responsibility for a period of four years, disposing of his interest to A. H. Peterson. Caroline Johnson, a daughter of John and Annie Johnson, became his wife, and they are the parents of Clara A., Jasper, Raymond, Luella, Dena and Kenneth. Mr. Danielson has ever been an active worker in his township and county, occupying many public offices with credit to himself and the satisfaction of his fellow citizens. For a period of eight years he was county commissioner of the second district; has served as town and village treasurer; has been president of the village council; and now occupies the offices of school clerk, in which capacity he has served for nine years. Of him it may be truthfully stated that the increasing years have brought increasing honor; and the high regard in which he is held by his fellow men testifies to his ability and worth. Mr. Danielson, his son, Jasper, and Mr. Herbst now conduct a general store at Hartley, Iowa, under the firm name of the Herbst-Danielson Company.

Rasmus Johnson was born on the island of Falster, Denmark, May 27, 1842. After coming to this country he proceeded west to Wisconsin and located in Racine, where for two years he was employed at various occupations. He came to Minnesota in 1868 and located in Fountain township, and for three years worked for Mr. Watson, at the end of which time he made use of his hard earned money and bought the 145 acres in section thirty-three, on which he resides at the present time. At the date of his buying this farm, the only building on it was a rough shanty, which was replaced in a very few years by a comfortable frame dwelling house. Mr. Johnson now carries on general and dairy farming, and makes added improvements to his place year by year, this resulting in its well kept and prosperous appearance at the present time. He married Annie Nelson, a native of Denmark, who died March 14, 1908, leaving two children, Walter, of Spring Valley and Edward, of Iowa. Mr. Johnson has held many offices at different times, and has been school treasurer in district 78 for the past seven years. The family worships at the Norwegian Lutheran church.

C. J. Boyer, a progressive farmer, was born in the township where he now resides, January 9, 1874, son of Carl and Wilhemena (Willbright) Boyer. His father came from Germany in 1854, and at once settled in section eighteen, Fountain township, this county, where for the remainder of his days, he was engaged in diversified farming, and where he reared his family of chil-

dren. He died in 1904 and his widow survived him five years, passing to her eternal rest in 1909. C. J., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the district school near his father's home and there reached his majority. Then, in partnership with his brother Fred, he purchased a farm in section twenty-five, which they cultivated and attended for six years. Mr. Boyer is now the owner of a large farm of 320 acres, in section twenty-five, divided into pasture, meadow and grain fields, and on which he conducts general and dairy farming. His large dwelling house and substantial outbuildings are well cared for and present a pleasing aspect to passers by. He was united in the bonds of matrimony with Laura Gilbert, and to them three children have been born, Bernice C., Howard M. and Ruth. Mr. Boyer is an honorable and upright citizen, respected by all with whom he is associated. He is a director of school district 78.

**Hiram Johnson**, the genial cashier of the First State Bank of Fountain, is one of the substantial men of the community. His grandparents, worthy people of Norwegian birth, brought his father, John Johnson to America in 1862 and located in the township of Fountain, where they became well known citizens. John Johnson was for many years engaged in the lumber business in Fountain village, dying in 1906. Hiram, the subject of this sketch, attended school in district 74, which was near his home, and grew to manhood in Fountain. His first position in the business world was as clerk in a hardware store, where he was employed for two years. After severing his relations with this firm, he became interested in banking, and went to Iowa, where he accepted a position in the bank at Nora Springs, remaining in the employ of that institution for a period of two years, after which he returned to Minnesota and was made cashier of the First State Bank of Fountain. In this capacity Mr. Johnson is admirably fitted to give satisfaction and he is held in high esteem by the citizens of that community.

**E. U. Arnold**, a well known farmer residing in the township of Fountain, is a native of this county, having been born in Fountain, October 26, 1865. His parents were John W. and Harriet (Hyde) Arnold, who came to Minnesota from Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1857, first locating in Olmstead county, where they remained one year; after which they came to this county and settled on section twenty-six, in the township of Fountain, where he carried on general farming until summoned by death, October 1, 1900. The wife and mother died June 26, 1910. Ezra U., the subject of this sketch, was brought up on the old home farm and passed the years of his boyhood similar to other

boys of his circumstances and generation, going to school and assisting his father with the work required to make farming a success. He married Ella Davis, a daughter of Wilbur Davis, and they are the parents of five children, Raymond, Roland, Ruby, Nina and Wesley. Mr. Arnold has a valuable, well cultivated farm which comprises 200 acres of fertile soil, on which he engages in general farming together with dairying. His present, comfortable home was built in 1910, an earlier dwelling having been destroyed by fire. He has also erected suitable out-buildings, for the shelter and protection of his farming implements, stock and grain, and his industrious habits have resulted not only in his prosperous condition at the present time, but have won the respect of his many friends and associates. Mr. Arnold is clerk of school district 78 and a stockholder in the Wykoff creamery.

**William A. Bolles** was born in New York state, and came from Albany, in that state, to Fountain township, in 1861. For two years after his arrival here he worked out as a farm hand, and his frugal habits, together with his perseverance and untiring industry enabled him to purchase a farm by the time he had attained his majority. This property was located in Fountain, section seven, and here Mr. Bolles built a rude log house, broke and tilled the soil, and brought the place to a high stage of cultivation. He prospered with the years, and carried on general farming until the time of his lamented death, April 24, 1910. His wife, who was Louisa Winslow, died in 1881.

**Byron O. Bolles** is one of the modern and progressive farmers of Fountain township, and has been prominently identified with its public affairs. He was born, August 1, 1872, in the town where he now makes his home, son of William A. and Louisa (Winslow) Bolles. As a boy he assisted with the farm work at home and attended school in his neighborhood. His whole life has been devoted to farming. His place consists of 140 acres of well cultivated land, which is gradually being converted into a dairy farm, with a fine herd of Guernsey cattle. Few men have given the careful consideration that Mr. Bolles has to farm conditions, and some of his improvements are widely known. His modern barn has been the cause of more than state-wide comment. This barn, with an expensive sanitary silo in the middle, is circular in form, with the stalls for the stock arranged about this silo. A series of modern sanitary stanchions adds to the comfort and convenience of the stock, the cement floor provides sanitary conditions, and numerous modern appliances for feeding and cleanliness, add to the general desirability of this

model structure. The idea of the barn is Mr. Bolles' own. The milk room is also a revelation of what may be accomplished in sweetness and purity in the handling of dairy products. The subject of this sketch was married, May 28, 1896, to Grace Drew, who was born near Zumbrota, Goodhue county, Minnesota, May 13, 1876, daughter of Henry and Julia (Wright) Drew, and this union has been blessed with five children: Marvin, Vera, Allene, Carol and Harriet. Mr. Bolles has been supervisor of his town in times past and is now clerk of the school board in his district. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Association of Wykoff.

**Theron H. Bolles** was born in the township of Fountain, June 3, 1868, son of Jason L. and Mary Eliza Bolles. His father was a native of Oneida county, New York, born September 16, 1823. He was an expert hammerman by trade and manufactured car-axes, scythes, log chains and augers. In 1854, he came west and settled in section seven, Fountain township, this county, where he established his home, built a log house, and followed general farming until the infirmities of age made active labor an impossibility. The log house was replaced by one of more modern material and style of architecture, in 1867, and in this, Mr. Bolles spent the remainder of his declining years, dying in 1904. Theron H., the son, spent the early years of his life helping with the farm work and attending school in district 75, and as he reached young manhood, he went to St. Paul, where he took a commercial course and fitted himself for a position as book-keeper, and in this capacity he was employed by a grocery firm for six years. After severing his connection with this firm, Mr. Bolles returned to his home on the farm and assumed charge of the home estate. He now owns 280 acres in sections six and seven, Fountain. He was married March 29, 1899, to Frances Buckingham, who has borne him two children, Ellen and Howard E. Together with his farming interests, Mr. Bolles is engaged in real estate business, and his resolute industry and perseverance have added to his prosperity each succeeding year. Mr. Bolles is treasurer of school district 75, and has served in that capacity for the past five years. He is a stockholder in the Wykoff Co-operative Creamery Association, and is vice president of the Wykoff Shipping Association, having charge of handling and shipping live stock for that concern.

**August Zincke** was born in Germany, in the kingdom of Saxony, March 3, 1832, and came to America in 1847. For a few years he lived in New York, and then took up his home in Cook county, Illinois. In 1868 he brought his family to Bloom-



MR. AND MRS. HERMAN W. ZINCKE AND FARM BUILDINGS

field township, this county, and two years later moved to Wykoff, where he spent two years, after which he lived in California for four years. Then he returned to Fillmore county and took up his residence on a farm near Wykoff, where he lived until 1900, when he moved to Olmsted county, where he died February 14, 1912. His wife, who was Sophie Brandt, born February 3, 1850, is still residing in Olmsted county.

**Herman W. Zincke**, a well-known farmer of Fountain township, was born in Cook county, Illinois, April 1, 1867, son of August and Sophie (Brandt) Zincke, natives of Germany. He was brought to this county by his parents, attended the district schools, and was reared on the home farm near Wykoff. After attaining the years of manhood, Herman W. assumed the responsibility of the farm for three years with his sister as housekeeper, and then went to Chicago, where he remained for a period. In 1892 he went to South Dakota, but later came back to Fillmore county, where he has since resided. He owns a fine farm of 200 acres near Wykoff, and is interested in general farming, stock raising and dairying. He is a member of Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., having been made a Mason at Spring Valley. The subject of this sketch was married June 15, 1899, to Ursa Arnold, a daughter of John W. and Harriet (Hyde) Arnold, and this union has resulted in three children: Sophia, Clarence and Hyde.

**David Hutton**, a well known farmer of Fountain township, was born in Dumbartonshire, Parish of Drymand, Scotland, in 1838, came to America in 1866, located at once in Fillmore county, and for about ten years was employed working on farms in and about Preston. At the end of this time, he had accumulated enough money with which to purchase a farm in section thirty-six, Preston township, and here for several years he resided. He later moved to Carrolton, from which locality, in 1892, he moved to Lanesboro; where he made his home for two years, and then located in section thirty-six, Fountain, where, at the present time he is living, and following his chosen occupation. Mr. Hutton married Mary E. Vickerman, daughter of Thomas Vickerman, and their marriage has resulted in the following: Maggie, now Mrs. W. T. Hanning of Reardon, Wash.; Lizzie, the wife of Charles H. Utley, of Carimona township; David, married to Elma Grimley, of Fountain township; Thomas, of Rochester; Peter J., of Reardon, Wash.; and Hannah A., of Adams county, South Dakota. Mr. Hutton is now operating the flour mill at Preston, in partnership with his son David, having taken possession of this mill October 16, 1904. The particular brands of flour to which the greatest care and attention are given are Hutton's

Pride and World's Desire, and the mill also turns out a new breakfast food which is known as Hutton's Hunger Cure. Mr. Hutton is respected for his many admirable qualities and is an industrious citizen, who takes a keen interest in the welfare of the county and community in which he resides. He is a Republican in politics, and a popular Mason, belonging to the blue lodge, chapter and commandery in Preston, and the Consistory at Winona. He is a stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Preston.

**Andrew Healy**, now living in Fountain township, was born in Carimona, April 19, 1858, son of Thomas and Mary (Kelly) Healy. His father came to the United States from Ireland in 1847, going to Syracuse, where for six years he was employed in various capacities. In this city he met and married Mary Kelly, also of Irish birth and parentage. In 1853 they started west, stopping for a year in Gena, Illinois. There Thomas Healy secured work on the railroad, thus obtaining his passage. After reaching Winona he and his wife came to Carimona by means of a team of oxen. Here, in 1857, he homesteaded a claim, built a log house, cleared and cultivated the land, established a permanent home, and reared his family of children. He passed away in June, 1906, his wife having gone to her eternal rest in 1872. Andrew, their son, was occupied while a boy with studying in the log school house near his home, and helping his father with the many tasks which constitute the daily routine of a farmer's life. He was united in the bonds of matrimony with Mary Weir, daughter of James Weir, and to them have been born five children, Zeta A., Edward C., Hugh R., James T. and Nellie I. Mr. Healy's farm comprises 200 acres of land and is located on the very place where the first town meeting was held, in section nine. He formerly was a director of the Harmony Fire Insurance Company, and in the many offices to which he has been chosen has given conscientious service.

**George Drury**, the pioneer, was born in England, and came to Bristol township, this county, in 1854, being married in 1858 to Katherine Pfremmer, who was born in Lyons, France. This worthy couple started farming under pioneer conditions, and were prominent citizens of the township until 1881, when they removed to Eugene, Ore., where Mrs. Drury died January 14, 1898. In March, 1907, Mr. Drury returned to Bristol township, where he died May 11, 1907. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom seven are living. Elizabeth married John W. Broadwater. Mary J. married Darius Broadwater. George lives in Oregon. Andrew, Frank and Sarah, grew to adult years and

are now dead, while Edward and Helen died in infancy. Marvin lives in Oregon. Minnie married Fred Fisher of Oregon. Robert lives in Oregon. Anna E. is the wife of Samuel Ogg, of Minneapolis.

Robert Broadwater, and Rebecca (Ogg) Broadwater, his wife, were among that sturdy band of pioneers, who in the middle fifties, left their homes in the East, and settled in Carimona and Bristol township, and established the Church of the Brethren. This pious couple, Robert and Rebecca Broadwater, upon arriving in Fillmore county, in 1855, located two years in Carimona township, and then took up their residence on their claim in section four, Bristol township, where they passed the remainder of their lives, the former passing away June 26, 1890, and the latter in June, 1907. They were the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters. Benjamin lives in Bristol township. Joseph lives in North Dakota. Darius lives in Preston. John W. lives on the old homestead. Elizabeth E. is the wife of Henry W. Bellingham, of Bristol township. The youngest, Rebecca, died in infancy.

Darius Broadwater, a retired farmer now living in Preston village, was born in Alleghany county, Maryland, now Garrett county, Maryland, June 4, 1851, son of Robert and Rebecca (Ogg) Broadwater, both of whom were also natives of Maryland. Darius was brought to Fillmore county by his parents in 1855, and here grew to manhood, attending the district schools, and remaining at home until twenty-four years of age. Then he purchased a farm of eighty acres in section nine, Bristol township. Later he sold this and acquired 160 acres in section six, Bristol township, where he engaged in general farming. His son, Frank W., now conducts this place. Later he purchased another farm of 160 acres in section seven, in the same township, which he conducted in connection with his other farm until 1910, when he retired and moved to Preston, the place in section seven now being conducted by his son, George A. In Preston, Mr. Broadwater has acquired a beautiful home surrounded by four acres of land on "West Columbia Heights," overlooking the village, and here he is spending his declining years in well deserved rest, after a hard and useful life. Mr. Broadwater is a member of the German Baptist Brethren church, of Bristol, which his parents assisted in founding. He is an independent voter, has been supervisor of his town, and for over thirty years served as clerk in his school district. The subject of this sketch was married July 18, 1882, to Mary J. Drury, born in Bristol township, on March 29, 1861, daughter of George and Katherine (Pfremmer)



Drury, the pioneers. This union has been blessed with five children. Urse S. is the wife of Joseph Hahn, of Preston township. George A. is on the home farm in section seven, Bristol township. He married Jennie Sikink. Elsie R. is the wife of the Rev. J. F. Souders, of Bristol township, pastor of the German Baptist Brethren Church. Frank W. lives on the home farm in section six, Bristol township. Earl D. is a student in the Preston high school.

**George A. Broadwater**, a common sense farmer of Bristol township, was born on section 9, in the township where he still resides, his parents being Darius and Mary J. (Drury) Broadwater. He was reared in the home of his parents, attended school in District 62, and assisted his father until he assumed the management of the part of the home farm lying in section 7, Bristol township. This tract comprises 120 acres, all of which is under cultivation. Mr. Broadwater has recently completed a new dwelling and out-buildings which are modern in every respect. He married Jennie Sikink.

**John W. Broadwater**, a well-to-do farmer of the town of Bristol, was born in Alleghany county, now Garrett county, Maryland, May 23, 1853, and was brought to this county by his parents, Robert and Rebecca (Ogg) Broadwater. In his youth he attended school in Carimona and Bristol, and remained at home until after attaining the years of discretion, at which time he built his present home on his father's homestead. The place is now known by the name of "Clover Nook Farm." It comprises 160 acres, practically all under cultivation. It would be hard to find a better farm or a pleasanter home than that of Mr. Broadwater's. The house is large, well lighted, heated with a furnace and fitted with modern conveniences. The farm buildings are large and commodious, and the house, barns and yard are lighted with thirty acetelyne gas lamps. An automobile carries the family to and from town, and two telephones keep the family in touch with the outer world. The stock is especially well cared for, and Mr. Broadwater's especial pride is the ownership of two imported Belgian stallions, one of which weighs 2,000 pounds. In addition to the home farm, Mr. Broadwater owns 120 acres in section seven, on which lives his son, Ezra Floyd. Mr. Broadwater is a prominent man in his community, has held town offices at various times, and has been a member of the school board for the past twenty-five years. He is also a prominent member and ardent supporter of the Church of the Brethren. He was married January 14, 1879, to Elizabeth Drury, born June 19, 1859, daughter of George and Katherine

(Pfremmer) Drury, the pioneers. Mrs. Broadwater is a woman of broad culture and wide capabilities, and is an ideal of all that a wife and mother should be. The Broadwater home has been blessed with the following children: Ella, deceased; Robert, who lives at home; Catherine, the wife of A. C. Wieand, who is president of the Bethany Bible school of Chicago; Ezra Floyd, who is married and lives in section seven; Sophia, a teacher in district 61; Ruth, Olive and Guela, who are at home, and Violet, who died in infancy.

**Ezra Floyd Broadwater**, a prosperous young farmer of Bristol township, was born on section four, in the township where he now resides, October 6, 1886, son of John W. and Elizabeth (Drury) Broadwater, whose sketch appears elsewhere. He was reared on the home farm, attended school at Crystal Spring district No. 61, and has devoted all his life to agricultural pursuits. He lives on his father's farm of 120 acres, all under cultivation. He married Laura Swanger, daughter of Robert and Carrie (Lovless) Swanger, of Fredricksburg, Iowa.

**David B. Ogg**, a highly esteemed citizen of Bristol township, was born on section six, in the township where he still resides, October 16, 1859, son of Joseph and Susan (Bueghley) Ogg, and has always lived on the home farm, with the exception of three years when he traveled for the Plana Harvester Company. His early schooling was obtained in district sixty-two. After attaining the years of manhood he married Ella M., daughter of Harry B. Ditch, born in Ogle county, Illinois, August 2, 1868. They have two children: Harry J., born December 29, 1891, and Carl Virgil, born July 20, 1897. The farm, which has been registered as "Maple Park," consists of 140 acres, eighty acres being in section six, and sixty acres being in section five, adjoining. The old homestead was a small frame dwelling, which was replaced by a larger dwelling in 1876. In 1911 Mr. Ogg remodeled and enlarged this house and practically made a new building of it. The outbuildings are large and commodious and the farm is equipped with everything that is needed in successful agricultural endeavor. A feature of the farm which makes it especially attractive is the fact that it is beautified with 13,000 growing maples and cottonwoods, which were set out by Mr. Ogg and his father, giving the place the appearance of an old country estate.

**Harry B. Ditch** was born in Waynesboro, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, November 12, 1844, and was married February 19, 1867, to Sarah Huffman, born February 24, 1844, in Ringold, Washington county, Maryland. They moved to Illinois in 1868, and

to Linn county, Iowa, in 1873, there engaging in farming and there becoming prominent citizens. Harry B. Ditch still lives in that county, his wife having died October 19, 1900. They had four children: Ella M., wife of David B. Ogg; Charles W., of Emmet county, Iowa; Frank W., of Chickasaw county, Iowa; and Carl L., of Linn county, Iowa, where he lives on the home farm.

Joseph Ogg, a venerable pioneer, and a bishop of the Brethren Church, was born in Maryland, and came to Carimona township, this county, in 1855, settling in Buffalo Grove. There he remained for the winter, and then homesteaded land in sections five and six, Bristol township, to which he moved at once. He followed farming all his life, but also preached at the same time, occupying a pulpit in the Brethren Church some thirty-five years. He died in 1895 and his wife in 1907. They were the parents of nine children: Martin, of Morrison county, Minn.; Sarah, wife of John Sadler, of this county; Louisa, wife of Stephen Broadwater, of Bristol township; John J., M. D., of Minneapolis; David B., who lives on the old homestead; James, a dentist in Orange City, Iowa; Samuel, a bookkeeper in Minneapolis; William, deceased; and Mahlon, a dentist of Wykoff. It is interesting to note that Bishop Ogg was one of a party of pioneers that left Garrett county, Maryland, to seek their homes on the virgin soil of the West. The trip was made in wagons of the old-fashioned Maryland stiff-tongued and lynch-pin style, most of the wagons being manufactured by John Ogg, another member of the party, and father of Joseph Ogg. The hubs of one of these wagons and many other interesting relics are still preserved by David B. Ogg. Of this party of noble pioneers, but one is still living, Mrs. Mary Zebaugh, wife of Peter Zebaugh, deceased, now making her home near Etna, in this county.

C. H. Brightman, a substantial land owner of the township of Bristol, was born in Chemung county, New York, July 2, 1843, son of Alson and Ruth (Swartout) Brightman.

Alson Brightman, in his life time, was one of the active go-ahead farmers of Bristol. He and his family came west to Mason county, Illinois, in 1854, remaining seven years. In June, 1861, they came to Bristol township and located in section twenty-two, where Alson farmed for twenty-five years. He then moved to the village of Granger, where he and his wife lived until toward the end of their lives, when they went to live with their son, C. H., the subject of this sketch. The father died January 28, 1891, and the wife and mother died January 20, 1898.

C. H. Brightman, who gives this data for his family record, passed his early life on the home farm and attended school in



MR. AND MRS. C. H. BRIGHTMAN

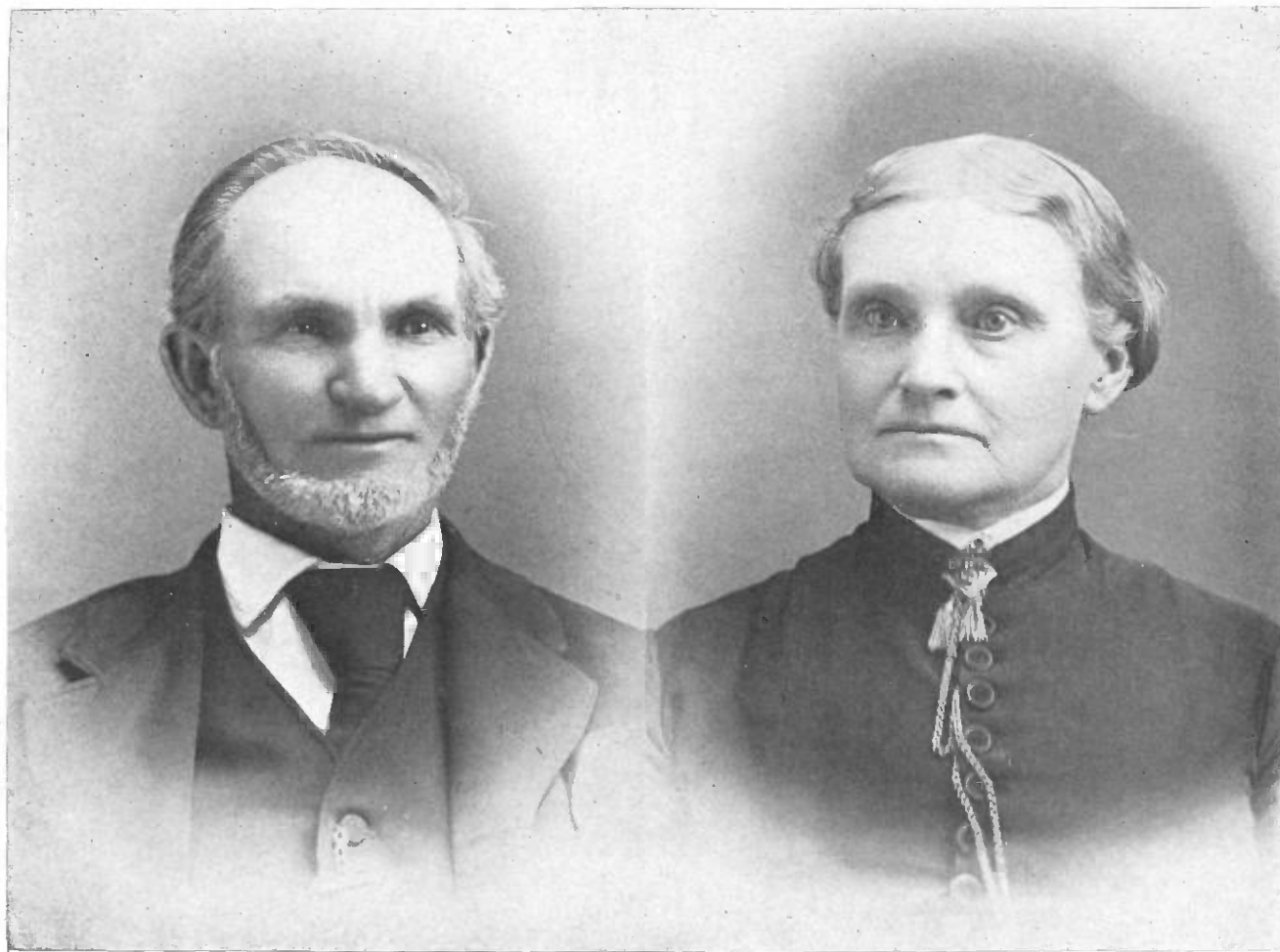
district sixty. In November, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, First Minnesota Cavalry, and saw active service. He was discharged in 1863. Mr. Brightman married Sarah M., born November 17, 1847, at Conway, Franklin county, Massachusetts, daughter of Edward Burnham and Hulda Call, his wife, and they have had two children. Willie Nelson was born November 12, 1866, and died February 4, 1904. Nettie M., born May 1, 1877, married C. T. Jerviss, and they have five children: Luella M., Zetta U., Irma L., Charles E. and Ruby O. Mr. Brightman lives in sections fourteen and twenty-three, the buildings thereon having been built by his father-in-law. The subject of this sketch is retired from active life and his son-in-law, C. T. Jerviss, looks after the home farm. Mr. Brightman has been constable and supervisor and was deputy sheriff four years under Henry Nupson. He is a member of Preston Lodge, No. 11, and also of Underwood Post, G. A. R.

A brief account of Edward Burnham, the Bristol township pioneer and father of Mrs. C. H. Brightman, is here appropriate. He was born in Conway, Franklin county, Massachusetts, February 24, 1826, and at the age of twenty-one years married Huldah M. Call on February 29, 1847. She was a native of Jay, Essex county, New York. They lived in Massachusetts until the spring of 1856 and then came west to Minnesota and took a claim in sections fourteen and twenty-three, Bristol township. They lived in a tent for a while, then built a log house, and ten years later erected a frame dwelling. When the war broke out he went to fight the Indians, and with a volunteer company was at South Bend and Winnebago City, in this state. In his younger days he was engaged in making brick and laying stone, and his latter days were spent in farming. He was a very industrious man all his life, and an ardent advocate of temperance. Mr. Burnham died April 13, 1905, his wife having passed away February 1, 1899.

Michael O'Conner, an early and estimable pioneer of Bristol township, was born at Abbey's Leaix, Queens county, Ireland, August 10, 1831, and there spent his boyhood. Later he lived in Yorkshire, England, and came to America in September, 1853. He landed in Boston and went to South Boston to live. There he learned the boilermaker's trade, and worked at this occupation two years. In 1854 he married Bridget Mulhall, who was born in Queens county, Ireland, and came to America in 1851. In 1856 Michael O'Conner and his wife and one child came west to Bristol, this county, traveling by rail, steamboat and team, and staking a claim in section three, where Mr. O'Conner set about to provide a shelter for his family. He dug a hole in the

side of a hill and covered it over, thus protecting them from the elements. Later a log cabin was erected and in this they lived for eight years. This was then replaced by a frame house, which was the first of the kind erected in the town. It was here that Mr. and Mrs. O'Conner reared their family of thirteen children as well as nine adopted ones. Their first child, Andrew, was born December 25, 1854, and died in March, 1903. Cicily was born May 11, 1856, and married Dennis Galvin. Elizabeth was born September 15, 1858, and died May 19, 1877. Mary was born March 6, 1860, and married Patrick Noland. Sarah was born May 8, 1861, and is now Mrs. John McNeff. John was born June 25, 1862, is married, has ten children and lives in Spink county, South Dakota. Hannah was born March 6, 1864, married William Galvin, and is now living in South Dakota. Anastasia was born August 6, 1865, and is now Mrs. Frank Twiss. Michael was born December 28, 1866, and lives in Fountain. Timothy was born August 18, 1868. Alice was born April 11, 1870, and is now Mrs. Dennis Connolly. Bridget F., born November 11, 1871, is now Mrs. John Triggs. Martha J. was born November 20, 1874, and is now Mrs. Larry Connely. Mr. O'Conner, coming here as he did before the admission of the state and the organization of the township, has seen great changes in Bristol and the surrounding country. He has been a hard working man and has broken and cultivated a great many acres in this section. He has owned large tracts of land, and at present his farm lands comprise 500 acres all under cultivation except eighty acres of timber land. Mr. O'Conner has held various offices in the town, such as supervisor and path master. He is still hale and hearty and vigorous at the good old age of eighty years, and his many friends trust that he will live to see many more years added to his four score.

**William E. Adams**, now deceased, was born in Luzerne, Warren county, New York, December 15, 1819. He attended school as a boy, and was reared on the farm, also working in his father's sawmill. When he was about fourteen years of age his father died, and three years later he came west to see the country, first visiting Buffalo, then Cleveland, then going to Portsmouth, Ohio, and from there down the Ohio river to Cairo, and then up the Mississippi to St. Louis. After visiting two weeks in Pike county, Illinois, he went back to St. Louis, but after a short time again went to Pike county. There he assisted in building a sawmill, but after about a month an old neighbor, Harmon Wells, came along and induced him to go home. They went to Wheeling, Va., by steamboat, on the Illinois, Mississippi and Ohio rivers, then across the Alleghany mountains by stage to Baltimore, from there going to Philadelphia and the coast by rail, then by steamer to Albany and thence home. Eighteen months later he again visited Pike county, Illinois, and subsequently again returned home. In 1840



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD BURNHAM

he spent a year at Athol, N. Y., part of the time repairing a saw-mill in company with his uncle. In 1844 he went to the polls in his native village and voted for William Henry Harrison, this being his first presidential ballot. November 7, of the same year, he was married at Brandon, Vt., to Cordelia A. Jones, and after a year spent in Warren county, New York state, the young couple took up their residence in Vermont, where Mr. Adams was engaged in farming and conducting a sawmill. In 1854 he came to Jackson county, Iowa, but after six months returned to Vermont. In the spring of 1856 he brought his family with him and located near the Minnesota state line, pre-empting land in section thirty-five, Bristol township, Fillmore county. That fall he purchased six acres from L. G. St. John, on which was a log cabin into which the family moved. In 1866 he built a frame house, rented his farm, and moved to the village of Granger. Five years later he purchased a home in Florenceville, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his days, dying in 1892. His wife passed away in February, 1890. In the family were four children: Asher R., Mary W., who married Dr. H. H. Haskins; Frankie, who died in 1856, and Nellie E.

**Charles Achatz**, who owns one of the most modern places in Bristol township, was born on the place where he still lives, October 5, 1860, son of Henry and Josephine (Fuhrman) Achatz. He received his education in school district sixty-five, and has devoted his life to improving and working the home place. He deals extensively in stock, and is successful both as a breeder and a dealer. His fine new barn, 112 by 64 feet, is said to be one of the finest in the county. It is built of galvanized iron and is supplied with all modern and scientific appliances for the comfort of his creatures, having accommodations for 100 cows and calves and twenty-four horses. Mr. Achatz married Frances E. Kirwin, daughter of James Kirwin and Ann Moran (Kirwin), of Bristol township. They have six bright children: Joseph C., Agatha J., Lillie M., Francis A., Ruth J. and Lucille.

**Henry Achatz**, now deceased, was born in Prussia, Germany, near Cologne, in 1819. He served in the German army two years and as a youth learned to make tiles for roofing, a trade which he followed until coming to America in 1849. Three years later, in 1851, he married Josephine Fuhrman, who was born June 26, 1823, within two miles of her husband's home in the old country. Upon arriving in America Henry Achatz went directly to Pittsburg, Pa., and shortly afterward went to Illinois. There he was employed as a mason. May 1, 1856, he left Illinois and, upon reaching Fillmore county, located on section twenty-four, township of Bristol. On this claim he erected a log cabin, in which



he and his family lived nearly nineteen years, after which it was replaced with a frame house. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Achatz had six children: John J., of Doon, Iowa; Herman J., of Harmony; William F., with Charles; Henry J.; Charles L., of Bristol; and Frederick F., of Harmony. Mr. Achatz died February 15, 1908. His wife died March 25, 1900.

**Asher R. Adams**, a representative citizen who has retired from active life and now makes his home in Florenceville, Iowa, near the Fillmore county line, was born in Luzerne, Warren county, New York, August 28, 1845, son of William E. and Cordelia (Jones) Adams. He was brought to this vicinity by his father in 1856 and attended the district schools in district fifty-nine, Bristol township. He learned the carpenter business, which he followed at odd times, and for thirteen years he engaged in the drug business in the village of Canton. Then he returned to his father's home in Florenceville, Iowa, and took care of his parents. He married for his first wife, Phoebe Kreeb, and by her had one child, Edna B., now wife of Edward Pruett, to whom she had borne one daughter, Ivey. For his second wife Mr. Adams married Mary E. Noblet, of Walworth, Wis., daughter of Peter E. and Lydia (Baker) Noblet, the former of whom was born October 12, 1808, and died in November, 1895, and the latter of whom was born in Rutland, Vt., and will be ninety-one years of age November 3, 1912. She lives at Florenceville, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Adams are esteemed and honored by all with whom they come in contact. Mrs. Adams' only brother died December 22, 1911, and her only sister, Sarah, lives with her mother in Florenceville, Iowa.

**David M. Hunt**, the successful druggist of the village of Granger, in Bristol township, was born in Canada September 7, 1855, son of James and Margaret (Miller) Hunt.

The father, James, came to America and lived in New York state before going to Canada, where he ended his days. After his death his widow married John Finckh, who brought the family to the United States in 1864 and located in Granger, where he carried on blacksmithing for thirty years. He has now practically retired from active life, but still lives in the village of Granger. The wife and mother died March 4, 1869.

David M. obtained his schooling in Granger and Preston, and worked out until 1883, when he engaged in his present business in Granger. During McKinley's administration he was appointed postmaster and still retains that office. Mr. Hunt married Eva J., the daughter of John G. Hall, a native of Maine, and this union has been blessed with four children: Evelyn B., Minnie B., David



MR. AND MRS. A. R. ADAMS

E., and Desmond B. Evelyn B. is the wife of F. A. Crowell, and they have two children, Beatrice and Fay. Minnie B. is the wife of Edward Privat. David E. recently graduated from the Ann Arbor Law School and is now engaged in law and real estate at Lewiston, Mont. Mr. Hunt has held various offices in the town. He was town clerk a long period and has been on the school board for twenty years, serving most of the time as clerk. In addition to his business he owns 600 acres of land, including a fine farm near Granger, which he rents. Being of a fraternal nature he has allied himself with Cresco Lodge, No. 150, A. F. & A. M., Preston Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F., Granger Lodge, No. 3066, M. W. A., and the B. A. Y.

**B. W. Nagel** is a native born son of this county, still living in the town of Bristol, where he was born, his parents being Aaron J. and Christina (Minen) Nagel, the pioneers. He was reared on the home farm in section seven, which he now owns and operates, being one of the successful farmers of the community. He married Katie Alink, daughter of Derick Alink, one of the early settlers of York. They have a daughter, Willma, and an adopted daughter, Ruth. The family worships at the Dutch Reformed Church in Greenleafon.

**Derick Alink** was one of the earliest settlers of York. He came to America in 1850 and located in Fond du Lac, Wis., remaining there seven years and then coming to York, Fillmore county, where he and his brother-in-law pre-empted a quarter section each. After a busy life filled with hard work he moved to Preston and died in 1891.

**Aaron J. Nagel**, the pioneer, was born in April, 1837, son of Barond and Gertrude (Deters) Nagel, and married Christina Minen. He came to America in 1854, and after staying a few months in Muscatine, Iowa, went to Waupun, Wis., where he worked as a carpenter and at such other labor as he could find. Later he came to Fillmore county and pre-empted 160 acres in section fifteen, York township, where he lived for several years. Then he rented his farm and returned to Wisconsin, where he stayed one and a half years. Upon again coming to Fillmore county, he lived for a time in York, and then sold his farm there and purchased a place in section seven, Bristol township. Here he built a log cabin and started working the land. In time he prospered and was enabled to build a frame house and some comfortable barns. He and his wife now live on a part of the homestead, the place being operated by their son, B. W. Nagel. Aaron J. Nagel and his wife were the parents of nine children,

five of whom are living. They are Benjamin W. (deceased), Hermina-Gerrit (deceased), Jane (deceased), Chris J., Hattie, B. W., Sena E. and Anna (deceased). Hermina is the wife of Gerrit Klompenhouwer, and they have one daughter, Gertrude. Chris J. lives in Bristol. Hattie married J. A. Ramaker, and they have four children. B. W. married Katie Alink, and they have a child, Willma, and an adopted child, Ruth. Sena E. is married and lives in Kandjohi county, Minnesota.

**Moses A. Link**, a capable farmer of Bristol township, was born near Freeport, Stephens county, Ill., September 4, 1863, son of John and Caroline (Walker) Link. At the age of two years he was brought to Bristol township and was reared on the home farm, attaining his education in the school of district 61. After marrying he purchased forty acres of the old home farm which he now cultivates. He married Jessie Thacher, daughter of William and Lucy (McLeaud) Thacher, and they have three children: George W., Edward O. and Harold A.

**John Link** was born in Baden-Baden, Germany, and came to America in 1846, when he was but eighteen years of age. He lived in Illinois a number of years, and in 1866, accompanied by his wife Caroline (Walker) Link, and his four children, came to Bristol township, and located in section nine. They moved into the log cabin that stood on the place, and lived there for some years, until a frame dwelling was erected. John Link died in 1893 and his wife is still living on the old homestead, while either her son Oscar or her son George cultivates the farm and takes care of her, as they have not yet married.

**Daniel R. Thacher**, a venerable and highly esteemed citizen of Bristol township, was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, December 4, 1835, son of Orson and Annie (Glidden) Thacher. The subject of this biography grew up in his native state and there attended school. In 1856 he came to Minnesota with his parents and settled in the township where he now resides. The following year he pre-empted a claim of 160 acres in section thirty-five Carimona township and section 2, Bristol, disposing of the former land the next year. For several years, Mr. Thacher dealt in farm lands in and about Bristol, and at one time owned more than an entire section. In 1878 he built his present comfortable frame house and made other needed improvements. He has ever carried on his farming interests with good judgment and business management, which have been the foundation of his success. In the political offices of both town and county, he has ably served and his record is indeed a most honorable one.

For more than twenty years he has been a member of the school board in his district. He was the first tax collector for Bristol township and has also served as assessor and town constable, filling these offices with satisfactory and commendable ability. Mr. Thacher has been twice married, his first wife being Mehitable D. Page, born in Vermont, December 7, 1838. Their marriage took place on January 5, 1859, and as the years passed they were blessed with three children. Ada J., born January 7, 1862, is now Mrs. Arthur Haupin, of Chatfield; Sophia M., born February 19, 1867, is the wife of Harry Fishbacker, of Bristol township; Orson D., born January 1, 1872, now resides in Carimona. Mrs. Mehitable (Page) Thacher died October 13, 1872. On April 17, 1873, Mr. Thacher married Elizabeth Grooteboer, born in Wisconsin, September 4, 1852, and to this union have been born four children: John B., April 13, 1874; Ray, April 4, 1880; Edwin, October 2, 1887, and Frank A. (a twin of Edwin), who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Thacher are now living a retired life, surrounded by the many comforts which their years of toil and industry have earned for them. They have the respect and esteem of their fellow men and their children are most devoted.

**Orson Thacher**, deceased, was a native of Vermont, born May 3, 1805. When about nine years of age, he was taken by his parents to Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, where they settled on a farm. At this time the country was a partial wilderness, but these sturdy pioneers overcame difficulties, cleared their land and there spent the remainder of their lives. Orson grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and there was educated and fitted for the useful life of a farmer. He was united in marriage with Annie M. Glidden, a native of the Empire state, and to this union were born three children, Daniel R., December 4, 1835, now a resident of Bristol, Minn.; Jerusba W., born in September, 1837, now Mrs. Alfred Crosby, of Chatfield, this county; and Sophia, who died in infancy. In 1856 Mr. Thacher moved to Minnesota and settled on section two, Bristol township, Fillmore county. Here, it is said, he erected the first frame building in the town and in this house resided until his death, which occurred November 14, 1871. His widow entered into rest May 20, 1872.

**David E. Jones**, now deceased, was for many years a well known resident of Bristol township. He was born in South Wales, May 4, 1862, and came to America with his parents in 1866. After stopping in Iowa, the family came to Bristol township, where the parents lived until 1901 when they moved to Lime Springs, Iowa, and there spent their declining years and died. David E., brought to this county as a small boy, was

reared on the home farm, and received his education in the school of district 151. After attaining the years of discretion, he married Elizabeth A., daughter of H. H. and Mary (Jones) Morris. Mr. and Mrs. Jones took up housekeeping on the Morris place, which Mr. Jones continued to operate until the time of his death, November 1, 1907. Mrs. Jones, with the aid of her son, Ezra, is now carrying on the farm, which comprises eighty acres, all under cultivation. The new dwelling, completed in 1911, is a pretty home, modern in every respect. The family now consists of Mrs. Jones and her three children: Ezra, Mabel and David Earle.

**Gerrit VanderBie**, one of Bristol's progressive and successful farmers, is a native of Holland. He was born July 21, 1845, son of Bastian and Altje (Baay) VanderBie, who brought him to the United States in 1848. While on board the steamer, the father died and the mother, after reaching this country, came west to Wisconsin with her children and located in Alto. By her union with Mr. VanderBie four children were born: Adriana, deceased; Gerrit of Bristol township, this county; Anthony and Bastian, both deceased. Some years later, she married Abraham Looman, and bore him six children: Mina, deceased; Priscilla, now Mrs. Gerrit Landaal, of Baldwin, Wis.; John W., of Alto, Wis.; Anthony, also a resident of that town; Johnnie and Ella, both deceased. Mrs. Altje VanderBie Looman died in June, 1909. Gerrit, subject of this biography, was educated in the public schools of Alto, Wis., and remained at home on the farm until seventeen years of age. At the call for men to fight for the preservation of the Union, he responded and enlisted as a private in Company A, Thirty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, being honorably discharged in June, 1865, with the rank of corporal. He was with Sherman on the famous march to the sea and participated in practically all the battles and skirmishes with his regiment. After being mustered out at Milwaukee, he returned to Alto and worked as carpenter and joiner for five years. In 1872 he decided to seek his fortune in Minnesota, and consequently located in Bristol township, where three years previous he had bought 120 acres in section five, and ten acres in section seventeen. On this property he made many improvements, erected a comfortable dwelling and good barns and carried on general farming. Some years after purchasing his farm, he sold 40 acres of it and bought 40 acres which adjoined his original purchase. As he grew prosperous he added to his holdings, bought 10 acres of timber in Carimona, and also the Greenleafston Store property and grounds thereto belonging. Mr. VanderBie has ever been a hard-working and honorable man,

and his farm and home bear witness to his thrift and good management; the well kept buildings, trim lawn and fine trees, all being marks of an enterprising owner. In political views he adheres to the Republican principles, and fraternally he is affiliated with the Underwood Post, G. A. R., 122 of Preston. On November 29, 1870 he married Jannetje Pool, born in Illinois, April 8, 1850, daughter of Klaas and Antje (Lek) Pool, now deceased. To this marriage have been born nine children, six of whom are now living: Alice, the wife of Henry Boland; Antje, now Mrs. William Elfrink, of Greenleafston; Charles, married to Laura Broadwater and living in Greenleafston; Franklin B., of Edmondston, Canada; Ruth, now Mrs. David Nagel, of Bristol; and Royal, a student in Southern Minnesota Normal College at Austin. Benjamin, Carl and Myrtle are deceased. The family are members of the Reform church and Mr. VanderBie has served as one of the elders in that body for several years.

**H. H. Morris** was born in Wales, and came to America in 1844, locating in Racine, Wis. In 1867 he brought his wife to section seventeen, Bristol township, this county, where he and his wife lived until 1892, when they moved to Lime Springs, where they still reside.

**Tosten O. Applen**, a prosperous farmer of Bristol township, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, November 7, 1853, son of Ole T. and Emma (Furley) Applen.

The parents came to America from Norway in 1851, and located in Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin. In 1852 they located in Locust Lane, Howard county, Iowa, and remained two years, after which they arrived in York township, this county. Three years later, they settled in Bristol Grove, Bristol township, and lived there eleven years, finally locating in section twelve, in the same township, where Ole T. died in 1885. His wife is still living in the village of Harmony.

Tosten O. was reared on the home farm and attended the schools of District 131. He married Esther Felland, daughter of Torger Felland, and they have eleven children: Olena, Theodore, Ingemann, Albert, Arnold, Carl, Mabel, Ole, Alma C., Fremont R., and Tosten E. Theodore and Ingemann are in the hardware business in Harmony. Olena is the wife of Halver Hagen and they have two children: Agnes L. and Thelma C. Ingemann married Nellie Peterson. Mr. Applen's farm contains 240 acres. His present residence was built in 1878 and was remodeled in 1907. The sons, who now conduct the farm, make a specialty, as their father did, of breeding Short Horn cattle, the subject of this sketch having now retired from some of the more strenuous

duties of farm life. Mr. Applen has served as a member of the town board in the capacity of supervisor and is now treasurer of school district 131.

**O. O. Applen**, a successful farmer of Bristol township, was born in Norway, April 6, 1850, son of Ole T. and Emma (Furley) Applen.

The parents came to America from Norway in 1851, and located in Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin. In 1852 they moved to Locust Lane, Howard county, Iowa, and remained two years, after which they arrived in York township, this county. Three years later, they settled in Bristol Grove, Bristol township, and lived there eleven years, finally locating in section twelve, in the same township, where Ole T. died in 1885. His wife is still living in the village of Harmony.

The subject of this sketch, when a boy, attended the school in district 131, and after he grew to manhood acquired a farm of his own in section six, Harmony township, where he kept house for himself for two years. Then he sold this farm, and purchased a place in Bristol township, where he still resides. After keeping a house for himself for a while, he married Jane T. Felond, a native of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Applen have seven children: Otto, Ella, William, Tuston, Clarence, Enis and Tillman. Otto married Agnes Suffland. Ella married Johannis Daley, and they have one child, Earl. Mr. Applen's farm comprises 160 acres of land, practically all under cultivation. The home was built in 1900 and the barn was erected in 1898. The family worships at the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church.

**F. Dexter Prosser** was born in Fillmore township, on the old family homestead, where he now resides, June 29, 1870, son of L. H. and Emeretta (Case) Prosser. He attended the common schools near home, then went to Winona where he entered high school, and later completed his education in Spring Valley. After leaving his studies he returned to the farm and worked for two years near Spring Valley, after which he assumed charge of the homestead. He now farms 200 acres, and until two years ago, farmed 400. He raises stock and keeps from fifty to seventy head of dairy cattle, disposing of milk and cream to the Spring Valley Creamery. In addition to his other farm interests, Mr. Prosser raises many Poland China hogs, which number 125 at times. He has also formerly kept many hundred sheep of the Shropshire breed, but is disposing of them now. Mr. Prosser is a director in the First State Bank of Wykoff and is also one of the directors of the local telephone company. During the years of 1910 and 1911, he was bookkeeper in the First State Bank at



Wykoff, and is now secretary of the Wykoff Shipping Association. Politically, he is an Independent Republican and has been elected to serve as chairman of the town board for eight years, also on the school board for six years, serving the same district in which he taught for three winter terms. On June 4, 1896, Mary DeGroat became his wife and their marriage has been blessed with one child, Avis Loraine, born June 6, 1906. Mr. Prosser is a member of the Methodist church of Spring Valley.

**C. M. Allen**, cashier in the First State Bank at Wykoff, was born at Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1856, son of W. A. and Flora Allen, now living at Rochester. He was educated in the common schools of his home town and completed a high school course, after which he secured a position in an abstract office in Rochester, where he was employed for three years. Desiring to master banking business, he went to work in a bank at Redwood Falls, Minn., and from there moved to Seaforth, where he became cashier in state bank for three years. When this institution changed hands, Mr. Allen returned to Redwood Falls and was employed as teller in the First National Bank at that place for six years. In 1905 he came to Wykoff to accept the position which he occupies at present. Mr. Allen belongs to the blue lodge, Chapter and Commandery of the Masons and to the Knights of Pythias. In 1883 he married Rebecca B. Cole and they have one son, Lyman Dona. The family faith is that of the Universalist church.

**Marvin Eggleston**, a valiant officer of the Civil War, a former law-maker of Minnesota, and for many years a prominent merchant in Wykoff, was born in Floyd, Oneida county, September 5, 1839, son of Nelson and Livonia (Jacobs) Eggleston, the former of whom died in 1852 and the latter in 1884. When quite young he was taken by his parents to Holland Patent, N. Y., and at the age of sixteen learned the trade of carriage and sign painter. Subsequently he entered the seminary at Whitestown, N. Y., and graduated in 1861, after which he devoted one year to clerking in a store. In the summer of 1862, the war having broken out, Mr. Eggleston, fired with the zeal of youth and an ardent patriotism, enlisted in Company D, One Hundred Forty-sixth New York Volunteer Infantry. He showed his valor at the great battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run and Petersburg, and in fact, saw active service in all the campaigns, skirmishes and engagements in which his regiment participated, until the end of the war. December 25, 1862, having already achieved the rank of first sergeant, he was promoted to second lieutenant. January 10, 1863, he was made first

lieutenant. Still retaining that rank, he was made regimental quartermaster, October 27, 1863. He was brevetted captain, March 13, 1865, and on July 10, of that year, was discharged with the full rank of captain. After visiting a while with friends in New York state, he came west in the fall of 1865, and clerked two years in Chatfield. In 1867 he formed a co-partnership with his brother, D. J. Eggleston, and engaged in the general mercantile business in Fillmore village. In 1871 they purchased a corner lot in the village of Wykoff, erected a building, and opened and conducted the first general store in the village. In 1875 the subject of this sketch moved his family to Wykoff and established his abode there. In 1879 he purchased his brother's interest in the business, and has since conducted the business alone, being very successful in building up a large trade and in winning and retaining the esteem and respect of the community. In 1906 Mr. Eggleston sold his home at Wykoff and purchased a beautiful residence at Lake Harriet, near Minneapolis. He expects soon to retire, and to take up his permanent residence with his family there. Aside from building up a successful business, Mr. Eggleston has taken an interest in public affairs, and has served his community in the legislature, being a member of the lower house in 1871. He married Hannah Jones, in June, 1869, and this union has been blessed with six children: Willis J., Lillis S., Oliver J., Marvin J., Harriet L., and Paul. Mr. Eggleston has taken great pride in the education of his children. All are graduates of the Spring Valley high school. The sons are graduates of the Minnesota State University, one of the daughters of the Minnesota State Normal School at Winona, and one of the Carlton College, at Northfield. Willis J. lives in Helena, Mont. He is an attorney for the United States government in its reclamation work. Lillis is the wife of Dr. John C. Farmer, of McKinley, Minn. Oliver J. is a mining engineer at Kennett, Cal., where he is resident engineer for the Mammoth Copper Mining Co. Marvin J., after being with the Security Bank of Minneapolis for four years, is now auditor for the Gold Medal Flour Co., of Minneapolis. Harriet is now Mrs. Frank P. Botsford, of Biwabik, Minn., her husband being a mining engineer and superintendent of the Bangor mine. Paul died in September, 1884, when but an infant.

D. J. Eggleston, now deceased, was born in Holland Patent, Oneida county, New York, in 1842. He attended the graded schools of his native place and completed his education at Hobart Hall, after which he engaged in clerking. In June, 1863, he came west to Minnesota, and clerked in the village of Chatfield for four years. In partnership with his brother they opened a

general store in the village of Fillmore. Later they erected a store at Wykoff, where they did business together until their partnership was dissolved in 1879. After a few years he removed to Knoxville, Tenn., where he engaged in commercial pursuits in which he was successful, until his death in 1890. He was married, in 1872, to Mary Steiner, who survives him and is now Matron of the Adams street Mission at Toledo, Ohio. Early in life he united with the Presbyterian church and was an earnest Christian worker until his death.

Daniel S. Hoff, deceased, will be remembered as one of the genial hotel proprietors of the pioneer days in this county. He was a native of New York, and there married Hannah Webster. In 1856 he brought his wife and family to Minnesota and located first in Fillmore township, and there pre-empted a claim in section twenty-six. Later, Mr. Hoff became proprietor of the "Hoff House" at Fillmore. This was during the time when M. O. Walker run a stage between St. Paul and Dubuque. In 1859, when this stage route was discontinued, Mr. Hoff moved to Winona, where he assumed charge of the "T Tavern," which he operated for two years. In 1863 he returned to Fillmore and again became proprietor of the hotel in that place, which he conducted until his death, which occurred February 20, 1888. His wife died ten years previous to this time. They were the parents of seven children, a daughter, Mrs. Brush, resides in Hamilton, and a son, Abram N., is a citizen of Fillmore township.

Abram N. Hoff, veteran of the Civil War and retired farmer, was born in Montgomery county, New York, March 8, 1843, son of Daniel S. and Hannah (Webster) Hoff, natives of New York. At the age of thirteen years, he came to Minnesota with his parents and the following year settled in Fillmore township, where they took land in section twenty-six. Abram, the son was educated in the district schools and when he was nineteen years of age, enlisted in Company F, Mounted Rangers, and went west on the Indian campaign. He served for a year and received an honorable discharge in December, 1863. On March 8, 1865, Mr. Hoff again enlisted to serve his country and this time became a member of Company C, of the now famous First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He went south, and served until the close of the war, being discharged as corporal on August 16, 1865. After his return to Minnesota, he operated a thresher for several years and engaged in farming in section thirty, Fountain township, and later in section twenty-six, Fillmore township, where he made his home for some time. Desiring to see more of the country, he secured employment as a bridge carpenter and worked

at his trade for a period of time in the West. In 1888 Mr. Hoff disposed of his farm and purchased sixty acres in Fillmore township, where he resides at the present time. He engaged in general diversified farming together with stock raising and dairying and was energetic and industrious, improving his property each year until he decided to retire from active life. He affiliates with the Republican party, has served as justice of the peace for eight years, and notary public for twenty-one years. He is a member of Centennial Lodge, No. 56, I. O. O. F., of Spring Valley, also of Baker Post, No. 16, G. A. R., of which he is adjutant. In November, 1868, Mr. Hoff married Amanda Sharp and to them were born two sons, Frank D., of Fountain, and Edward S., of Minneapolis. Mrs. Amanda (Sharp) Hoff died in November, 1873. In 1892 Mr. Hoff was united in marriage with Margaret Houston, who came to Minnesota from Ohio that year.

**Joseph J. Walker** was born in Dubuque, Ia., April 28, 1857, son of Samuel and Agnes McCaldon. His father came to this county in 1862, and settled at Thompson's mill, known now as Meisnen mill, in Fillmore, where he went into the turning business, making furniture and woodenware. The family lived there about three years. They then moved to Spring Valley township and located at what was then De For's mill, now commonly known as Weisbach's. In 1865 a home farm was purchased in section fifteen, Fillmore township. The father died July 26, 1898, and the mother December 14, 1880. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Fillmore village and as soon as old enough went into farming as a business, gradually branching into stock breeding. He now raises a pure breed of Aberdeen Angus cattle and has from thirty to forty head. His fine drove of fifty to seventy-five Chester White hogs are likewise pure bred, and he has also raised a number of very fast horses. He has a large and comfortable home on his "Maple Dale" Stock Farm, just north of Wykoff, and is the owner of 310 acres in sections four, seven, eight, ten, fourteen and fifteen. In politics, Mr. Walker is independent and has never sought public office, but has been treasurer of school district ninety-four for more than thirteen years, and chairman of the Fillmore town board for eight years.

Although his farming and stock raising activities are extensive and of a varied character, Mr. Walker has many other business interests. He is president of the First State Bank of Wykoff, president of the Farmers' Shipping Association of Wykoff, president of the Wykoff Co-operative Creamery, and president of the Wykoff Rural Telephone line which extends to Chatfield, as well as having many other commercial connections.

He is a member of the Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M. On April 12, 1885, he married Lydia Todd and to them have been born eight children, one of whom, Samuel Isaac, died in infancy. Martha Agnes, Hugh William, Joseph Lynn, James Holmes, Mary J., Robert Cleeland and Lydia Eleanor are all at home. The family worships at the Methodist Episcopal church of Fillmore. Mrs. Walker was born in Villard township, Pope county, Minnesota, October 20, 1868, daughter of Isaac and Martha Todd. Her parents, who now reside in the place of her birth, lived in Fillmore county from 1876 to 1898, Mr. Todd being a manufacturer who made much of the brick used in constructing houses in Spring Valley and Wykoff.

**John T. Dunn, M. D.**, of Wykoff, was born at Waseca, Minn., March 13, 1879, son of James M. and Matilda (Turnacliffe) Dunn, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Ohio. Dr. Dunn received his early education in the common schools in Waseca county, graduated from Waseca High school, and later entered the University of Minnesota, where he took the medical course and graduated in the class of 1904. After receiving his diploma, the subject of this biography came to Wykoff, where he worked for a time in partnership with another physician, but having shortly afterward dissolved this partnership, has since practiced on his own responsibility. Dr. Dunn is regarded as a most skillful and scientific physician and surgeon, and enjoys a large practice. He upholds the principles endorsed by the Republican party, but his many professional duties have prevented his seeking public office. Dr. Dunn is affiliated with many of the prominent fraternal orders in the county and state, being a thirty-second degree Mason and Shriner, and a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen and the Yoeman. Professionally he is president of the Houston-Fillmore County Medical Society, a member of the Minnesota State Medical Association, and of the American Medical Association. On October 20, 1902, Dr. Dunn married Lillian Sherman Shute, and they are the parents of Georgia June, born June 12, 1907.

**Marcus Robbins**, a pioneer of Fillmore county, was born at Wardsborough, Windham, county, Vt. When about nine years of age, he removed to St. Lawrence county, New York, and there married Fannie Hubbard, also a native of the same state. Mr. Robbins was a merchant, and before coming west, engaged in the general mercantile business, also dealing in stocks and real estate. In 1853 he was appointed in New York as deputy collector of customs, in the district of Oswegatchie, for six years. In 1859, he came west and located in Fillmore county, where

after some years of farming, he again took up the real estate business, at one time owning 1,200 acres of choice land in Fillmore county. In 1870 he was county commissioner in Fillmore county, and for many terms was a justice of the peace and an assessor. He died in 1888 and his good wife passed to the great beyond one year later.

Hortense Robbins, the efficient teacher of history in the Franklin High school, Austin, was born in Fillmore county, daughter of Calvin M. and Rosalie E. (Mosher) Robbins; and granddaughter of Marcus and Fannie (Hubbard) Robbins. After receiving her early education in the graded schools, she attended the Winona Normal school. She then entered the Albert Lea College and completed a course in that institution. She received her degree from Hamline University in 1899. Miss Robbins has taught school in Preston, Spring Valley and Austin, and has been very successful, having that happy faculty of joining a thorough knowledge of her subjects, with a knack for interesting her pupils and holding their respect and attention.

Rev. M. E. O'Connor was born in Willimantic, Conn., July 31, 1873. He received his early education in the common schools, and the high school of his home town. He then entered the Allegany, N. Y., Saint Bonaventure's College and completed a course in classics and philosophy. After his college work he went to the Theological school of St. Mary's University of Baltimore. On June 9, 1900, he was ordained in Buffalo, N. Y., by Archbishop Quigley, of Chicago. He was sent first to St. Thomas Cathedral in Winona, where he remained till 1901, when he went to Rushford, Minn., to take charge of the parish. He remained there two years and in 1903 came to St. Killian's church in Wykoff. He has recently been transferred to Mapleton.

Calvin H. Robbins, M. D., a gentle and courteous physician of the old school, now deceased, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, December 20, 1840, son of Marcus and Fannie (Hubbard) Robbins, with whom he came to Fillmore county in the late fifties. He attended the public schools, and later took a course in the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, completing with a course at Keokuk, Iowa. In 1866 he started practice in Fillmore, Fillmore county, and in 1875 went to Wykoff, where he continued practice, also entering the drug business. Thence he went to Spencer, Iowa, and became editor of the "Spencer Reporter," until 1897, when he again took up the practice of medicine and continued to the time of his death, February 28, 1900. He was a Republican in politics and

served in the Minnesota state legislature of 1876. The subject of this sketch was a member of the Masonic order, and also affiliated with the I. O. O. F. and the B. P. O. E. He was married, November 11, 1866, in Fillmore county, to Rosalie E. Mosher, born in Canton, N. Y., September 27, 1848, and to this happy union five children were born: Hortense R., Marcus P., Fannie E., wife of Dr. S. C. Schmitt, of Mankato; Gertrude, wife of Dr. W. G. Crandall, of Spencer, Iowa, and C. Eaton, a traveling salesman for the Stacy Fruit Co., of Albert Lea.

**Henry Huxsahl**, well known merchant of Fillmore, is a native of Germany, born November 29, 1864. He came with his parents to America in 1867, and settled in La Crosse, Wis. In 1884, after completing his education in La Crosse, he came to this county and learned the blacksmith trade in Wykoff, where he was employed for five years. In 1896 he decided to start for himself and went to Fillmore and opened a shop, which he has since operated. He opened a general store in 1904 and carries a good stock of clothing, groceries and hardware. His success in business is due to his square dealings and the confidence with which he inspires all customers. Politically, he is independent and he is serving as member of the school board in Fillmore at present date. In 1904 Rose Weber became his wife and their marriage has been blessed with one child, Laurald. The wife attends the Methodist church and is an esteemed member of that organization.

**Edmund P. Johnson**, journalist and writer, was born in Buffalo, N. Y., February 25, 1867, son of James K. and Hattie I. (Wall) Johnson, who came to Chatfield from Indiana and conducted a general store from 1870 to 1874. They then moved to Lanesboro, where the father was in general mercantile business for six years, subsequently going to North Dakota, where they took up a claim and remained four years. In 1884 they moved to Minneapolis and the father entered the employ of the West Hotel of that city, where he was continuously employed for more than twenty-five years. He is at present living in Winona. Edmund P. received his education in the common and graded schools of this county. He started in the printing business with the "Mississippi Valley Lumberman Exchange," where he was employed two years. Later he was with the "Religious Press" of Minneapolis two years. In 1897 he came to Lanesboro and had charge of the "Journal" mechanical work till 1902. He then purchased that paper and conducted it four years. In 1906 he came to Wykoff and was with S. J. Huntley on the "Messenger." In 1907 this was sold to E. G. Klock. In 1908 Mr. Johnson bought out Mr. Klock and on November 1 of that year he issued the

"Enterprise," which he has continued to publish to the present time. About ten years ago the subject of this sketch in his newspaper writings, populated Isinours, a station on the Southern Minnesota, in this county, which has practically no population, and these fictitious characters furnish excellent reading matter in Mr. Johnson's papers for those who like literary matter with a note of the facetious. The idea is similar to Alfred Henry Lewis' populating Wolfville and Red Dog, in Arizona. On September 14, 1892, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Emma Yohe, of Lanesboro, and to this union has been born one son, Murray W., who lives at home and assists his father in the printing business.

Milo White, who is one of Minnesota's most highly respected and honored citizens, was born in Franklin county, Vermont, August 17, 1830, son of Josiah and Polly (Bailey) White, and of Mayflower ancestry. His parents never came west, the mother died in Vermont in 1847 and the father in 1880. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools and later at the Bakersfield Academy. Having completed his studies, he began clerking in a general store at Cambridge, Vt., for one year. Then he worked one year in a store at Winooski Falls, Vt., which was only one mile from the grave of Ethen Allen. He afterwards went to Burlington, Vt., where he was also employed as clerk. Two years were spent there, after which he went to New York City and there followed his same employment two more years. Believing that the West held greater opportunities for him than the East, he came to Minnesota, arriving here in 1855, May 10, and settling at once in Chatfield. The following year he opened a general mercantile business, which he continued for more than fifty-two years. In his business he was very successful, his honesty and integrity having won for him many friendships, which endure to the present time. In 1858 he was elected chairman of the first board of supervisors of his township. Although he has often declined many public offices, he has been mayor of Chatfield several terms, member of the school board for some time and has held minor offices. In 1871 he was elected state senator and was, for four successive terms re-elected to that office. It was while in the state senate that he had the experience and formed the friendships which later, in a greater legislative body, served him well. In 1882 and again in 1884 he was elected to congress from the first district. Knut Nelson, now senator, was then serving his first term in congress. The oleomargarine law, which has been so widely discussed, was brought to the attention of congress and energetically pushed by Mr. White, who at that time was on the committee on agri-



culture. Though he was a Republican in a Democratic house, he succeeded in getting the oleomargarine bill made a law, which remains today practically as he sent it from the committee. To enumerate the offices which he has held locally would be to give a list of all offices, as he was always an ardent worker for all public enterprises. He was one of the original and very active members of the cemetery association, of which he served as president for fifty years. He has been director of the First National Bank from its organization. Though not a communicant, he has been a liberal supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1858 he married Hannah Ellis, a native of Vermont, and to them have been born three children. Charles H. is now a merchant in Chatfield; Milo, Jr., is in the mercantile business at various points in the Middle West, and JC is vice-president of the First National Bank, of Mabel, Minn. Mrs. White was born at Fairfax, Vt., September 11, 1836, and died at Chatfield, Minn., March 2, 1912.

The following letter from Knute Nelson, United States senator from Minnesota, written to Mr. White on the latter's eightieth birthday, shows something of the esteem in which this venerable gentleman is held, not only by Senator Nelson, but by all with whom he has come in contact. "Alexandria, Minn., August 14, 1910. Hon. Milo White, Chatfield, Minn. Dear Friend: Upon looking through an old Congressional Directory, I find that within three days you will have reached your eightieth birthday, and therefore take this occasion to congratulate you on the event. You have had a long, prominent and noted career in our state. You came here among, and was one of, our early pioneers and state builders. You have seen Minnesota grow from a mere frontier settlement into a great state of two million prosperous and happy people. And in this great work of building up our state, you have been one of the leaders, one of the great men to whom the state owes so much. I have served with you in our state senate and in congress, and in both places you took a prominent part, and was always faithful and loyal to the best interests of the people. Your manly, fearless and independent course was always approved by the mass of our best people. The state owes you much, and our people will always hold you and your noble work in kind and lasting remembrance. Your most sincere friend and well wisher, Knute Nelson."

**George H. Haven**, substantial banker and prominent citizen of Chatfield, in which city he has resided since 1856, was born in Windsor county, Vermont, September 10, 1841, son of Augustus and Barbara B. (Hall) Haven. We went with his parents to Boston in 1848, and to Galena, Ill., in 1855, coming with them to

Chatfield one year later. He had received a good education before coming to Fillmore county, and after reaching here attended the Chatfield Academy one year. After completing his schooling, he started work as an assistant in his father's store, and in 1863, after his father's death, succeeded him in the business. This store he conducted until 1888. During that year he succeeded J. C. Easton as owner of the Root River Bank. The bank at that time was a private institution. In 1905 it was incorporated as the First State Bank, of Chatfield, with Mr. Haven as president, a position he has since retained. Mr. Haven has been interested in public life and has taken an active interest in the progress of the city. From 1865 to 1904 he was secretary of the board of education, for a number of terms he was mayor of Chatfield, and at one time for three years he served as a member of the board of county commissioners. In politics he is a staunch Republican. In 1874 the subject of this sketch married Annah Gilbert Johnson, born in Lewis county, New York, November 1, 1846. This union has been blessed with two children, Ruth Annah and George Augustus.

Ruth A. attended the public and high school of Chatfield. After attending Abbott Academy, Andover, Mass., one year, she entered Carleton College at Northfield, Minn., and was graduated in 1899. Then she taught in the high schools of Kasson and Chatfield for several years. Subsequently she attended the University of Minnesota, and then taught three years in the high school at Rochester, Minn. Later she took a trip abroad, and is now attending the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio, where she is taking a library course. George A. is cashier in the First State Bank, of Chatfield.

Augustus Haven, one of the earliest business men of Chatfield, was born in Vermont in 1808, and there grew to manhood and married Barbara B. Hall. In 1848 he moved to Boston and was engaged in business there, removing to Galena, Ill., in 1855. A year later he came to this county and opened a store in Chatfield, in which business he continued until his death, February 25, 1863. His wife died February 4, 1897.

George A. Haven, cashier of the First State Bank, of Chatfield, was born in the city where he still resides, son of George H. and Annah Gilbert (Johnson) Haven. He received his education in the public schools of Chatfield, and was graduated from the Chatfield high school in 1901. After attending Carleton College at Northfield, Minn., for one year, he entered Yale University, at New Haven, Conn., where he was a member of the University Fraternity of Book and Bond. He was recommended for

special honors in history and the social sciences, and was graduated in 1905. That same year he was elected to the banking position which he still retains. In 1907 he was elected secretary of the board of education and is still serving. He is president of the Alumni Association of the Chatfield High School.

Peter Lieberg, of Chatfield township, was born in Norway on March 26, 1860, son of Hans and Caroline Lieberg, the former of whom was a dyer by trade. When Peter was but a year of age his parents brought him to this country and settled on a farm in Chatfield township, remaining there three years and then coming to sections thirty-four and thirty-five, Chatfield. For many years the senior Lieberg carried on general farming, and his death occurred in 1903; the wife and mother now resides with the subject of this sketch. Mr. Lieberg was educated in the common schools of Fillmore county, attending district 161 until fifteen years of age, when he completed his studies and devoted his attention to working on the home farm. He has since resided there and at present owns and farms 160 acres in Chatfield and eighty acres in Fountain township. He raises Shorthorn cattle for dairying, also makes a specialty of hogs and sheep. On his farm he has made many improvements, building the substantial house in which he lives, some years ago, and erecting the barn in 1903. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the M. W. A. at Fountain. He is a Republican politically and has been a member of school board in district 161 for nine years. June 17, 1896, Mr. Lieberg was united in marriage with Beata Knutson, born February 21, 1868. Their children are: Harry, Mildred and Eveline; and Floyd, who is deceased. The family are members of the Lutheran church of Fountain.

Martin Jacobson, a well known resident of Chatfield township, was born July 17, 1843, in Norway, son of Jacob and Abigail Olson, natives of that country. At the age of eighteen years the subject of this sketch crossed the ocean to America, and upon his arrival in this country, proceeded directly to Minnesota, where he located in Chatfield township on section twenty-six. For many years he carried on farming there and eventually moved to his present location on section twenty-two, where he has lived for the past forty-two years. This farm was mostly covered in timber at the time when Mr. Jacobson bought it, but he cleared and broke it and has now one of the well cultivated and productive farms in the township. In 1867 he bought a quarter section and now owns 160 acres and engages in general dairy farming, keeping about thirty head of Shorthorn cattle and disposing of his dairy products to the Chatfield creamery. He also

raises many hogs, for which he realizes the best of market prices, and he owns six good farm horses. His present log granary was the original family home and was erected in 1868. Mr. Jacobson is a member of the Lutheran church, and he votes the Republican ticket, but has never sought public office. On April 7, 1866, he married Aase Evenson, of Fountain township, and to them have been born: Annie Mary, born January 27, 1867, now the wife of Jean Merchant, of Chatfield township; Julia Gurenia, born January 18, 1868, married to George Benson, of Chatfield; Hilda Emelia, born February 14, 1869, wife of Martin Danielson; John August, born August 29, 1870, now at home; Emma Matilda, born March 18, 1874, now Mrs. Chris Amundson, of Chatfield; Martin Oscar, born May 22, 1875, and now at home; Nellie Sofia, born June 26, 1876, and married to Henry Pikop; Tina Caroline, born November 3, 1877, and married to Lewis Quale, of Chatfield; Carl August, born January 7, 1879, and now at home; Alta Otia, born January 27, 1880, also now at home; Nina Christina, born July 5, 1882, married to Oliver Rosendall, of Fountain; two children died in infancy. Mrs. Jacobson died March 26, 1912.

Lewis T. Soland, an extensive land owner, fruit grower and farmer, of Amherst township, was born in Rushford township, this county, September 10, 1860, son of Truls G. and Marit (Larson) Soland, natives of Norway, who came to the United States by way of Quebec in 1854, settled in Rushford township and engaged in diversified farming until the year 1872, when they purchased a half section of land in Amherst, where they have continued to live to the present time. They are the parents of nine children, two of whom are deceased and seven still living. Lewis T. Soland, the subject of this sketch, received his early education in the district school of his neighborhood, and grew to manhood on his father's place. In time he purchased a part of the old homestead, and engaged in farming on his own responsibility, and there, by dint of hard labor and his untiring efforts, the foundations of his success were laid. In 1895 he sold that farm and purchased a place of 208 acres in section twelve, Preston township. On this farm he erected a fine dwelling house of modern type, erecting and rebuilding substantial outbuildings for the housing and care of his stock, crops and machinery. In 1897, through keen observation, his attentions were turned toward making Fillmore county a fruit country. That year, 1897, he planted a model orchard and the following year, 1898, he planted another orchard of 600 apple trees, and in 1899 he planted 2,400 trees, which today are all in bearing condition. Mr. Soland was among the very first, if not the first, to strike out in this branch of industry on an extensive scale in this county,

which has now become one of the leading fruit counties of Minnesota. It is worthy of note here, that all the trees planted by Mr. Soland were grown at the Preston Nursery in this county. In 1912 he sold his farm and purchased 220 acres in Amherst township, where he now resides. Mr. Soland has always taken an active part in the welfare of his county, and the community in which he lives, having served on the town board of Preston two years, and having also given excellent service on the school board of his district. He is independent in his political views, always voting for the man and the principle, rather than for the party. The subject of this sketch was first married November 26, 1885, to Mary Peterson, who proved a most faithful wife and mother. She died June 4, 1907, leaving five children: Theodore L., Millie S., Guy T., Mabel S. and Lelia M. Mr. Soland was married the second time to Mrs. Anna Dyrson, and this marriage has resulted in the birth of one daughter, Ruth C. The present Mrs. Soland, by her first marriage to John Dyrson, is the mother of four children: Eli, of Canton township; Clarence, Gena, and James, who live at home. The family faith is that of the United Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Jacob Rose**, a resident of Amherst township from 1860 until his death, was a native of Harrison county, Ohio; born August 10, 1826, son of Henry and Rebecca Rose, the former of whom was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in 1796, and was one of the first settlers in Harrison county, Ohio. Jacob, subject of this sketch, learned the blacksmith's trade when a young man and followed that occupation until 1850, during which year he enlisted in the United States Marine service. He first served on board the ship *Susquehanna*, and later became a member of Commodore Perry's expedition to Japan and China. He visited the East Indies and on the return trip stopped in San Francisco, and from there sailed around Cape Horn, stopping en route in South America and the West Indies. Upon his arrival in New York he was honorably discharged, after which he returned to Ohio and there began to farm. About 1860, Mr. Rose came to Minnesota and settled in Amherst township. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the Indian troubles, after which he went south with his regiment and fought for the preservation of the Union until the close of the war. Returning to his home in Minnesota he settled on his farm and there resided for the remainder of his life. About 1878 he was injured by a fall from a horse, which incapacitated him for active labor. For more than twenty years he practiced veterinary surgery, together with his farming industries. Mr. Rose was prominent in political affairs in the township and

occupied many public offices, being at one time notary public. On September 4, 1856, he married Christina E. Kanoth and to them were born two daughters and a son. In October, 1882, Mr. Rose passed away; Mrs. Rose entered into rest June 7, 1908.

**Truls G. Soland**, now living a retired life in Amherst township, is a native of Norway, born in Sedel, near Dramman, February 24, 1826. He there grew up and received his schooling and later was employed as a laborer. In 1854 he emigrated to America and located at first in Decorah, Iowa, where he lived one year. He then came to Rushford township, purchased a quarter section of land, built a log house and followed general farming and wheat raising for fourteen years. In the late sixties he had accumulated enough property and money to enable him to buy a half section of land in section eight, Amherst. This land had a log house on it and here he and his wife made their home. After some years a frame house was built, where the subject now lives with his daughter and son-in-law, Knut Simonson. Mr. Soland married Marit Larson, and to them were born: Gilbert, Lewis T., Albert, Betsey, Isabelle, Ole and Knudt; Truls and Gurena, deceased. Isabelle married Knut Simonson, who now owns the old Soland farm of 200 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Simonson have one son, Oscar T., who is a student at the St. Olaf College of Northfield, Minn.

**Christ L. Nelson**, a leading citizen of Amherst township, was born on section fifteen, Preston township, this county, March 26, 1868, son of Lars and Karen Nelson, natives of Norway, where they lived till 1856, when they, in company with many of their countrymen, emigrated to the United States, coming directly to this county, and settled in Preston township, where Lars Nelson secured employment at various labor until he had saved an amount of money sufficient to purchase land he had selected in section fifteen. On this land, which he carefully cultivated from the date of his purchase, he built a stone house, which still stands and which was the birthplace of all his eight children. Nels is a farmer living in North Dakota. Betsey is now Mrs. Bernt Simonson. Frederick is on the old homestead, and Lewis also lives in Amherst. Otto lives in Bowman, N. D. Christ L. is the subject of this sketch. Lars Nelson, the father, died in 1910, the mother some years prior to that date. Christ L. was educated in the common schools and then worked at home until 1897, when he came to Amherst township and bought a farm in section nine. Here, in 1907, he built one of the fine residences of the county and here his farm of 200 acres is one of the attractive points of the township. His commodious dwelling, lighted with gas, and

his excellent equipment of farm buildings are a credit to the owner and an advantage to the community in which he resides. In 1897 he married Annie Olson, born December 8, 1871, daughter of Lars and Ingeborg (Lien) Olson, and to this union have been born five children, Lydia L., Esther C., Celius Alfred (deceased), Luella G. and Alice C. Mr. Nelson is a stockholder in the Amherst creamery and in the Lanesboro canning factory. He is a member of the United Lutheran church. The parents of Mrs. Nelson were born in Norway and settled in Preston township, where the father died in 1888, the mother being still alive.

**Henry C. Rose**, progressive and ambitious citizen of Amherst township, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, May 1, 1858, son of Jacob and Christina (Kanoth) Rose. In 1860 he came to Minnesota with his parents and settled in Amherst, being but an infant at the time. In a log house, which his father erected, he grew to boy and manhood. His education was obtained in school district twenty-seven and he prepared himself for the useful life of a farmer early in life by working on the home farm with his father. He now owns 120 acres of the old homestead and here engages in diversified farming and stock raising. He has made many improvements and is now erecting a large and beautiful modern residence and good outbuildings. On September 9, 1889, he married Martha J., daughter of Amos and Harriet (Ruggles) Newell, and to them have been born six children, Ethel, Ruth, Millard, Alvin, Gordon and Mabel. Mrs. Rose was educated in Lanesboro and later taught school. Her father was a stone mason by trade.

**Martin A. Johnson**, of Amherst township, was born in Norway, January 25, 1853, son of Andrew and Mary (Olson) Johnson, the former of whom was born October 24, 1818, and married Mary Olson in 1850. In 1861 these parents came to America, bringing with them Martin, the subject of this biography. For a year after their arrival in this country they lived with Nels Boxrud, in Canton township, after which they bought land on section thirty-one, Amherst township, and there put up a log house, where they lived until 1882, when the present frame dwelling was erected. The wife and mother died August 7, 1864, and Andrew, the husband and father, died in 1896. Martin A., the subject of this sketch, came to America with his parents in 1861, and locating with them on the farm, where he still resides. When he first came to this country he attended the Norwegian school and later the English school at Henrytown, where he acquired his education. He spent his boyhood years on the home farm with his father, and there grew to manhood, preparing himself

for the responsibilities of life. On the home farm he is still living, surrounded by many comforts. He owns 200 acres of land, which is partly under cultivation and carries on general farming to some extent, renting a greater portion of his property because of poor health. He is a respected member of the Lutheran church at Henrytown, and was formerly a member of the Greenfield congregation at Harmony.

**Andrew Gilbertson**, who is living a practically retired life on his farm in Amherst township, well deserves his present comfortable surroundings and release from the arduous toil of the farm. He was born in Haland, Norway, about five miles from Christiana, on February 18, 1844, son of Galbrand Andersen and Mary Anderson. In 1861, with his parents, he crossed the ocean and landed at Quebec, where his father and mother remained for two years. Andrew came directly to the States, and after reaching Winona, bought a team of oxen and continued the journey to this county. For some time after coming to Amherst he secured employment of different farmers and being both industrious and frugal, managed to accumulate some money, with which he bought eighty acres in section twenty-two. On his farm he erected a log house and then sent for his parents, who made their home with him for the remainder of their lives, the father passing away in 1883, and the mother in 1878. For twenty years, Mr. Gilbertson owned and operated this farm, after which he disposed of it and bought 200 acres in section three, where he built a frame dwelling and good substantial outbuildings. As the years have come and gone and he has toiled on his farm, giving his best efforts to improving his property and making it one of the attractive and valuable in the community. He has been successful and now owns, aside from the 200 acres in the home place, 160 acres on section ten, and five acres of timber in Preble township. Ingar Anderson became the wife of Mr. Gilbertson in January, 1874, and they are parents of nine children, Anton, Melvin, Julia, Henry, John, Carl, Martin, Albert and Ida. Julia is now Mrs. E. H. Johnson. The sons now operate the home farm under Mr. Gilbertson's directions. Mr. Gilbertson served on the school board for eighteen years. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**Gilbert Gullickson** was born in Amherst township, on December 1, 1854, son of John and Margaret (Knudson) Gullickson, natives of Norway. During his boyhood years, the subject of this biography attended school in district twenty-eight, and early in life he fitted himself for the occupation of farming. He now owns a farm of 240 acres, which is well cultivated and





ANDREW GILBERTSON'S RESIDENCE

yields valuable crops each year. Together with general farming, Mr. Gullickson makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle, for both beef and dairy purposes. In public offices of the township, Mr. Gullickson has at various times been actively interested, having been elected to serve in many responsible positions. He has owned and operated a threshing machine for the past twenty years, and has found this branch of farming most profitable. Amelia, daughter of Paul Anderson, became his wife and they have one son, James P., a lad now sixteen years of age.

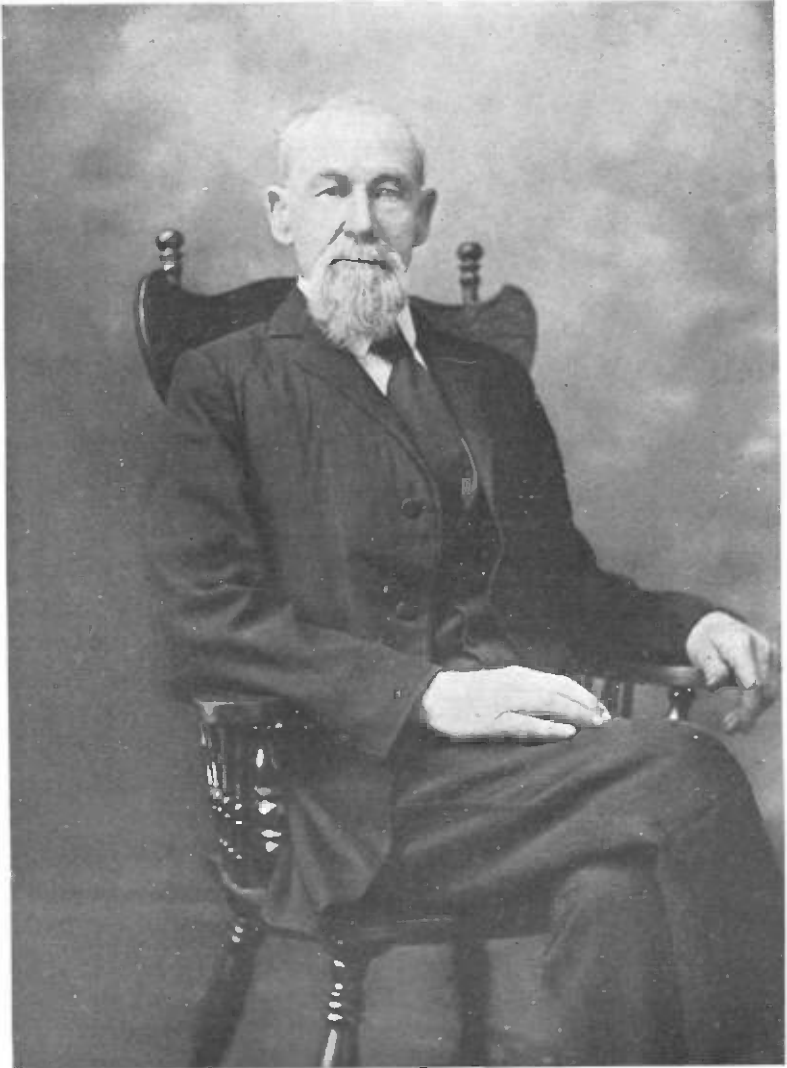
**John Gullickson**, deceased, was one of the early settlers in this county, whose memory will long be revered. He was born in Valdres, Norway, and there was educated and prepared to assume the responsibilities of life. He married Margaret Knudson, a native of Hallingdahl, Norway, in which place he and his wife spent some years and where their eldest child, John, Jr., was born. In the fall of 1851, Mr. Gullickson and his family came to America and located in Rock county, Wisconsin, where they resided three years, after which they set out for Minnesota. They traveled from Wisconsin to Amherst township, this county, in a covered wagon, drawn by a team of oxen and arrived at their destination on June 6, 1854, after a trip of three weeks. The father pre-empted a quarter section in Amherst on section nine, and bought another quarter. At the time of their locating on the claim there was no house there, so the family lived in the wagon while Mr. Gullickson, who was a carpenter by trade, erected a house of logs, and made the floor of hewn timber. In this humble dwelling, Gilbert, who biography appears elsewhere in this work, was born. In 1865 a frame house was built. Mrs. Gullickson passed on to the great beyond in 1891 and Mr. Gullickson surviving her for three years, dying in 1894. They were parents of four children, John, deceased; Knudt, living in North Dakota; Gilbert, residing on the old homestead; and Annie, now the wife of Christ Dunham, of Amherst township. Mr. Gullickson has a half-brother, Gutrom Olson, of North Dakota.

**E. L. Babcock**, prominent citizen, man of affairs and keeper of a general store in Amherst township, was born at Scott, Cortland county, N. Y., September 11, 1855, son of Hiram and Tacy (Frink) Babcock, the former of whom was a blacksmith by trade. E. L., subject of this sketch, attended the district schools in his neighborhood and then entered the Homer Academy, of Homer, N. Y., and there fitted himself for teaching, which he started at twenty years of age. When he attained his majority he left his old home and came west to Minnesota. He arrived in Preston on October 4, 1876, and in November began teaching,

which he followed here for four and one-half years: Being of an economical nature and possessed with good sense and business management, Mr. Babcock acquired a small hoard of savings, with which he invested in a stock of goods and opened a general store in Amherst, where he has since met the demands of an ever increasing trade. For thirty-two years, Mr. Babcock has been in the mercantile business and in 1880 he was appointed postmaster, which office he occupied for sixteen years. He was county commissioner from January 1, 1901, to January 1, 1905, and has held other offices, having been town clerk for sixteen years as well as notary public for a time. He is now serving his twenty-fifth consecutive term as treasurer of school district thirty. Mr. Babcock has taken a deep interest in the development of the dairy and creamery industry, and is now secretary of the Amherst creamery. He is also a member of the M. W. A. at Canton.

On May 2, 1880, Mr. Babcock married Julia A., daughter of Orrin Dibble, a native of Essex county, New York, and to this union have been born two children, Effie E., now the wife of Oscar Stenvick, has one child, Roland O., and lives at Bagley, Minn., where Mr. Stenvick occupies the office of county attorney. Clayton E. married Della Turner, daughter of the late John Turner.

**Christian Peterson**, one of the best known men in Amherst township, was born in Eidsvold, Norway, December 2, 1839, and in 1854 came to America with his parents and two brothers. The family stopped first in Stoughton, Wis., for about a month and then came west to Canton, this county, where the father purchased the James Kelley farm on section three. The parents lived here the remainder of their lives. Christian worked on the home farm and when convenient attended the log school house at Lenora, remaining at home until the time of his marriage, when he went to Holt township, where he had bought a farm. The first winter he lived there he drew logs for the Ellstad church, which was then being constructed in Amherst. He later left the farm and went into the farm machinery business, living in Winona one year and in Rushford for a time. He finally located in Preston, where he lived for more than a quarter of a century. In 1872 he became sheriff of the county, a position which he held for six years. He was later postmaster in Preston during the Harrison administration. In 1895 he bought a farm of 160 acres in Bristol, to which he moved and where he farmed for seven years. He then bought his present farm in Amherst township, formerly owned by his brother, now deceased. Besides the larger positions, he has many times held the town and minor



CHRISTIAN PETERSON



JOHN TURNER

offices in the localities where he has resided. Mr. Peterson's first wife was Ingeborg Knudson, and to them were born nine children, only four of whom are now living. Two of these children, Nettie, who was a school principal in Fargo, N. D., and Clara, who was Mrs. Maloney, were among the number who lost their lives in the ill-fated Iroquois Theater which burned in Chicago.

The first wife died in November, 1881. March 5, 1885, he married Gena Olson Skaraasen, who was born in Rinsiker, Norway, December 24, 1859, and came to America in 1882. To them have been born five children: George William married Lena Breno, and manages the homestead. Henry and Henrietta are twins. Alma is a student at Harmony. Dorthea is at home. Henrietta married Andrew Elstad.

**Carl G. Knudson**, a successful farmer residing in Amherst township, was born at Rock Prairie, Rock county, Wis., November 19, 1851, son of Knud and Gunild Knudson, the former of whom was born and grew to manhood in Norway, from which country he came to America about 1846. After reaching America, the father proceeded west to Wisconsin, there locating on a farm and marrying. During 1854 he and his family moved to Minnesota and settled in Amherst, where they pre-empted a claim on section twenty-seven, built a log house and spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1882 and the mother two years previous. Carl G., the son, spent the early years of his life in going to Norwegian school during the winter months and working for his father summers. He early in life prepared himself for the useful occupation of farming, and now owns 167 acres which are well cared for and cultivated. He engaged in general diversified farming together with some stock raising and dairying, and is both industrious and progressive. Mr. Knudson married Christina, daughter of Ole Blagsvedt, a pioneer of this county, and to this union seven children have been born: Gusta, Agnes, Clarence, Joseph, Oscar, Benjamin and James. Gusta is now the wife of Thomas Reese and has one child, Orville. They reside in Chatfield. Agnes married Elmer Eddy.

**John Turner**, deceased, was born in Lower Canada, May 1, 1847. When he was seven years of age, he, with his parents, left the old home farm near Chatham, Ontario, and came to the United States, crossing the great lakes and locating near Rockford, Ill. Later they removed to Wisconsin and there stayed but a short time, after which they went to Bremer county, Iowa, and located near Waverly. At that time the country was sparsely settled and many Indians were in evidence, and these parents with other of the white settlers endured great hardships. In

1858 they came to Minnesota and spent a few years in Amherst township, this county, then moved to Preble, where they erected a dwelling and farmed for many years. Here, John, subject of this biography, worked for his father and grew to manhood. When he was twenty-two years of age, his father gave him a team of horses and he then started for himself, working for various farmers for several years and then buying property. He became one of the most highly esteemed and successful men in the vicinity, and at different periods occupied prominent public offices in his township. For many years he was a member of the Henrytown Presbyterian church, but later joined the Scotland church of that order and held the office of elder at the time of his death. He was one of the founders of the Harmony Mutual Fire Insurance Co., being one of its board of directors during his last years. He was president of the Canton Elevator Co. for several years, and in all offices which he occupied he gave his best efforts and conscientious endeavors. Fraternally he was affiliated with the Odd Fellows Lodge at Lanesboro. On October 17, 1875, he was united in marriage with Julia A. Vought, daughter of Jacob and Margaret Vought, and went to housekeeping in Mr. Onstine's house, the following June removing to section thirty-two, where they passed the rest of their lives. Mrs. Turner died January 23, 1888, and Mr. Turner was summoned by death April 1, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Turner were parents of seven children, of whom Arthur Leslie was born January 14, 1878; Albert Gordon, December 14, 1879; John Clair, September 1, 1881; George Chester, January 23, 1883; Claud Henry, November 18, 1885; Della Mertilla, June 18, 1886, and Julia Annetta, January 21, 1888. Arthur L. married Flora, daughter of Alexander and Ada (Elder) McKay, and has one child, John, now a year of age; Albert G. married Almeda Hegland and has two children, Lucille and Earl; George C. married Ethel Holton; Claud H. married Olive Milne; Della married C. E. Babcock, of Amherst; Julia married Charles Chalsma and has two children, Helen and one not named; Arthur L. and John C. are living on and operating the home farm; Albert G. and Claud H. are working the farm on section twenty-one, and George C. is a dentist, practicing in Clarkfield, Minn.

Ole M. Blagsvedt, one of the progressive men of Amherst township, was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, January 1, 1855, son of Mons O. and Kari (Olson) Blagsvedt, natives of Norway. The father was born on June 8, 1823, and received his schooling in Norway, where, till nearly thirty years of age, he worked at farming and lumbering in his native land. A month after his marriage he brought his wife to America and located in Rock



JOHN McCALLUM AND FAMILY



county, Wisconsin, where they lived until 1855, when they came to Minnesota and bought land in section fourteen, Amherst township, this county, where they made their home the remainder of their lives. Ole M. Blagsvedt, the subject of this biography, came to Amherst when six months of age, and since that time this has been his home. He received his schooling in the common schools of his neighborhood, attended the Rushford high school two years, and then took a course in the La Crosse Business College. He then assisted on the home farm until the time of his marriage, when he purchased a farm on section fourteen, near his father's farm. On December 11, 1879, he married Lena Hansen, a native of Holt township, and to them have been born six children. Minnie is now Mrs. Gunder Kittleson, and is the mother of two children, Earl and Wallace. James M., Emma, Alma, Mattie and Wilhelm O. are all living at home. Mr. Blagsvedt's home farm is one very well kept and comprises 190 acres. The Blagsvedts have always been active church workers, ready to toil and to sacrifice for the progress of the Lutheran faith. Mons O. Blagsvedt and his wife helped to organize the first Norwegian Lutheran church in their community, and opened their cottage for the meetings for some time. They also helped to build the first church in 1866. Ole M. Blagsvedt assisted in building the new brick church on the same site in 1910-1911.

John McCallum, a highly esteemed resident of the township of Amherst, is of Scottish birth and ancestry, having first seen the light of day on June 24, 1852, at Perthshire, Scotland, son of Robert and Janet (McNee) McCallum. When but four years of age, the subject of this biography immigrated to America with his parents, who stopped in Rock county Wisconsin, where they remained over winter, after which they removed to Minnesota by ox team and covered wagon, coming to Preston township and locating on section 22, where the father passed away in June, 1873. John, the son, acquired his schooling in the Henderson log school house and during the summer months was employed on the home farm, where he became familiar with general farming operations, thus fitting himself for that occupation later in life. He remained at home until 1882, during which year he bought property in Amherst township on section twenty-one, which is his present home. He owns 200 acres in the home farm and 144 acres on sections seventeen and twenty. In 1910 he erected one of the finest dwellings in the vicinity, and his large barns and other outbuildings are evidence of his thrift, and his progressive ideas. In the public affairs of the town and county he has ever taken an active part and has at various intervals been identified with many of the most responsible public offices, such as those

of justice, constable and supervisor. Since twenty-one years of age, he has been a member of the school board. January 19, 1881, Mr. McCallum married Barbara McConochie, daughter of Duncan and Jennie (Ferguson) McConochie, and they have become parents of Robert, Geannie, wife of Orie Capron, of Lanesboro; Mary, wife of Arthur Ward, of Lanesboro, and Katherine. With Mr. McCallum and his family resides his aged mother, who though advanced in years, still retains her active interest in affairs of the day and possesses a remarkable memory. Her anecdotes of pioneer days in this county are most interesting. She is now eighty-eight years old, having been born in October, 1823. Mr. McCallum is a member of the Scotland church.

**M. O. Blagsvedt** is a native of Amherst township, where he still resides, born February 27, 1860, on section fifteen, son of Ole O. and Annie Blagsvedt, early settlers of Amherst, who are elsewhere appropriately mentioned in this work. M. O. received his schooling in the local school, district forty-three, and worked at home on the farm assisting his parents until 1890, when he purchased a farm in section twenty-two, where he still lives. He has 140 acres in this section and thirty acres in section twenty-four. His farm is considered one of the excellent ones in this locality, and the large and well kept buildings, which can be seen for a great distance, make up one of the show places of the township. In political inclinations Mr. Blagsvedt is a Republican, though he votes for the man rather than for the party. He has never actively sought public offices, but has felt in duty bound to accept certain local offices which his neighbors desire him to hold, and for over twenty years has been treasurer of the town. He is also treasurer of school district number forty-three. He was married March 6, 1890, to Carrie Knudson, a native of Amherst, daughter of Knud Knudson, and their union has been blessed with three children, Oscar, Aleda and Luella. Mr. and Mrs. Blagsvedt are members of the Elstad Lutheran church, of which Mr. Blagsvedt is one of the trustees.

**C. O. Blagsvedt** was born in Amherst township, where he still resides, July 25, 1867, son of Ole O. and Annie Blagsvedt, natives of Aadalen, Norway. The father was born March 25, 1825, and as a young man came to Rock county, Wisconsin, where in 1850, he was married, the lady of his choice having come to that county in 1840. The young couple lived in Wisconsin until 1854, when they sold their property there and came to this county, settling in the northern part of Amherst township. They soon moved to section fifteen, where they bought land and built a log

house. Later the log house was replaced by a good frame dwelling. The father died in 1895, and the mother has reached the advanced age of eighty-five years, but is active and in comparatively good health. C. O. Blagsvedt attended the school in district forty-three. As he grew to manhood he worked on the home farm and now owns 200 acres, which comprise a very good farm under a high state of cultivation. He is of broad interests and public spirit, has been supervisor of the town, is now clerk of school district forty-three, and has served in other local offices. He is treasurer of the Amherst creamery. He and his wife, who was Olga, daughter of Ole L. and Olava Ask, are members of the Elstad Lutheran church, which has recently erected a new \$13,000 church, and Mr. Blagsvedt is treasurer of that body. Ole O. Blagsvedt, brother of C. O. Blagsvedt was one of the first white children born in the county.

William McArthur, a venerable and highly respected citizen of Amherst township, was born in Schoharie county, New York, August 16, 1834, son of Robert and Sarah (Goodneough) McArthur, the former of whom was a Scotchman and came to America with his parents in 1782, when seven years of age. The family located in Washington county, New York, where Robert grew to manhood and was educated, after which he went to Schoharie county. William, subject of this biography, stayed on the home farm with his father until he became sixteen years of age, then went to Delaware county, made his abiding place with a cousin, and at twenty-one years learned the carpenter's trade. In 1863 he became desirous of seeking his fortune in the West and accordingly left his home state and went to Wisconsin, there locating at Ripon, Fond du Lac county, where he was employed, following his trade, and assisted in the completion of Ripon College, then in course of construction. Two years later, in 1865, he came to this county and located on section twenty-one, Carrollton township, there remaining for three years, after which he moved to the farm now occupied by A. G. Austin, in Carrollton township, and on that property spent two years. In 1870, Mr. McArthur bought a farm on section five, on which stood a log house, which he moved to a more desirable location and in which he lives today. This log house has been enlarged and improved and now is a most comfortable home. Although seventy-eight years of age, the subject of this biography is in charge of his farm, having for many years been engaged in agricultural operations. He married Emeline Regna, daughter of Henry and Caroline (Johnson) Regna, their marriage being solemnized in 1865. To them have been born eight children. John married Flora McKensie and has four children. Robert J. has been twice mar-

ried, his second wife being Annie (Moore) McArthur, who has borne him three sons. Lillie B. married W. H. Drinkall and has seven children. Thomas T. married Maggie Anderson and has three children. Walter married Stella Irwin and has two daughters. Clara is the wife of Charles Miller and has one son. Emeline is Mrs. Fred A. Mason and has two children. William H. lives in Lewiston, Mont. Mr. McArthur was school director thirty-three years. The family worship at the Methodist Episcopal church.

Asa R. Burleson, one of Spring Valley's well known and ablest lawyers, has been a resident of this city since 1873. He was born in the town of Freedom, Cattaraugus county, N. Y., son of Owens and Mary (Bedell) Burleson, who were married in 1824, the former, a carpenter and millwright, having been born in Vermont, June 8, 1878, and the latter being a native of New York. Asa R., the subject of this biography, completed the course outlined in the common schools of his home town, and then entered the Franklin Academy of Vermont, where he fitted himself for the work of an instructor, later teaching in the same academy. He subsequently taught in various institutions in Vermont and in 1858 was appointed department collector and inspector of customs in Burlington, Vt., being employed in the custom house for three and one-half years. During his unemployed hours he studied law, and was admitted to the bar in Vermont in 1859. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in one of the well disciplined companies, and was made state drill master from April until September, his duties in this position taking him from point to point. In September, 1861, he went to the front in the Fifth Vermont Volunteer Infantry as a drum major. In April, 1862, by general orders, all bands were mustered out at Yorktown. Mr. Burleson then returned to his old home in New York and recruited for the One Hundred and Thirtieth New York Volunteer Infantry, which later became the Nineteenth Cavalry, or the First New York Dragoons. He was appointed second lieutenant in Company H in September, 1862, and was later promoted to first lieutenant, being acting adjutant until his discharge in 1864. During his services for his country, Mr. Burleson, in the Army of the Potomac, was in sixty-four battles, which are fully described in the work called "The Three Hundred Fighting Regiments," and was honorably discharged because of injuries received while on scout duty, his last battle being at Cold Harbor. After his return to his home in New York he was employed teaching school and meanwhile continued his study of law. In 1872 he was admitted to the bar in Buffalo, N. Y., and the following year was admitted to Minnesota bar;

since which time has practiced his profession in Spring Valley. He has held the office of justice of the peace for a period of thirty-six years, and on March 12, 1912, was re-elected for a term of two years, which is evidence of the general satisfaction he has given in this position. He was married June 2, 1862, to Anna Ellithorpe, was born in Wyoming county, New York, August 13, 1835, a daughter of Lyman and Fanny (Gregg) Ellithorpe. Her education was acquired in the Rushford Academy in New York. Shortly after her marriage to Mr. Burleson, he was called to the front, and soon news that he had been killed reached her. She then went to Gettysburg, at the battle of which her brother Philip was fatally wounded, offered her services as a nurse, and remained there for three months. This trip to Gettysburg was her first ride on the cars. Soon after her return to her home in New York she received news that her husband was not dead. Mrs. Burleson's father had been a soldier, and was in active service in 1837 and 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Burleson are the parents of Cora (deceased), DeWitt Clinton, Louise and Philip. Cora married J. M. Smith, of Austin, and bore him one daughter, Marian. In political convictions, Mr. Burleson is a broad minded Democrat, and has held many public offices in Spring Valley, including such positions as town clerk and village recorder. He organized Burdick Post, No. 3, G. A. R., and belongs to the Masonic lodge. It may truly be said that 'Squire Burleson has ever been a great worker for the improvement of the city, which he has called his home for nearly two score years.

**O. W. Moore**, of Spring Valley, horticulturist, manufacturer and veteran of the Civil War, is a native of the Empire state, having been born in Fort Plain, September 13, 1830, son of James L. and Elizabeth Moore, the former of whom came to the United States from Scotland, and the latter of whom was a native of New York. His father, who was a cooper by trade, met death by drowning in April, 1840, and the mother passed away some years later. O. W., the subject of this sketch, attended school in New York, and after completing his education, was employed by his uncle until he became eighteen years old, at which time he secured work in a saw mill near his home in Oneida, continuing in this occupation for four years. Desirous of learning a good trade, he then apprenticed himself to the Oneida Wagon & Carriage works and remained with this concern for two years. He subsequently came west and located at Sparta, Wis., where, for one year, he was engaged in carpentry work and where he was later employed in a sash, blind, and door shop. In 1856, Mr. Moore came to Minnesota and made his home at Rushford, where he opened a wagon and carriage shop, which he conducted for

sixteen years. He moved to Spring Valley in 1871, and established a wagon manufacturing business, which proved a most successful undertaking, and he continued in this work until about six years ago, when he discontinued owing to the large factories securing a greater share of the business. Mary Airon became his wife in 1864, but passed away in 1868. To them were born Vernia, now Mrs. J. H. Tretheway, of Virginia, Minn., and one son, who died in infancy. June 21, 1869, Mr. Moore was united in wedlock with Mary Elithorpe, of New York, and they are the parents of: Burton W., who resides in Stewartville, Minn., and is a thirty-third degree Mason; and Frances N., who is at home. Mr. Moore enlisted April, 1861, in Company K, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and saw active service in the following battles: Bull Run, Leesburg, Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, Malvern Hill, Chancellorsville, Antietam and Fredericksburg. Through all these terrible battles, in which so many brave men lost their lives, Mr. Moore fought for the preservation of the Union and came out with not a wound. April 25, 1864, having attained the rank of corporal, he was honorably discharged on account of poor health contracted while in service. Mr. Moore is now engaged in horticultural activities, devoting much time to public speaking and writing. He owns four acres of land, on which are 100 apple trees. Mr. Moore was a Whig before he became a member of the Republican party, but he has never sought public office. He is a member of the G. A. R., and highly respected by a large circle of acquaintances and the citizens of the city in which he has made his home for so many years.

**R. J. Parker**, attorney at law, and one of the prominent citizens of Spring Valley, was born in the town of Frankfort, Mower county, Minn., on December 17, 1867, son of W. H. and Hannah (Wiseman) Parker, the former of whom was a native of New York, and the latter of England. The father died in 1888 and the mother now resides at Santa Ana, Cal., with her two daughters. R. J., the subject of this sketch, attended the schools in Spring Valley, when a boy, and later went to Minneapolis, where he entered the University of Minnesota, studied law and graduated in the class of 1890. After completing his education, Mr. Parker returned to Spring Valley and in 1892 began to practice his profession, which he has since continued. During his college life, he was a classmate of Judge H. H. Dickenson, now of Hennepin county, and also classmate of Judge Whiting, now on the Supreme bench of North Dakota. Mr. Parker is a staunch Republican and was elected county attorney in 1903, serving in this capacity until 1909, during which period he kept open his



L. H. PROSSER



F. DEXTER PROSSER

office in Spring Valley. He has also served as village attorney in Spring Valley for several terms. He is a director of the First State Bank of Spring Valley, also of the First National Bank of that place. On January 1, 1902, Caroline Hendershott, daughter of D. C. Hendershott, an old settler of Spring Valley, now deceased, became the wife of Mr. Parker and they are the parents of one daughter, Suzanne.

**L. H. Prosser**, Civil War veteran, legislator and retired farmer, is one of Fillmore county's most respected and successful citizens. He was born in Spencer county, Indiana, April 18, 1836, son of Henry and Nancy (Jones) Prosser. He began his education in the country schools and after reaching the age of nineteen, continued his studies in private. In 1849 Mr. Prosser went to Marion county, Illinois, with his parents, and in 1856, came to Minnesota and located in this county, where for a time he worked on his father's farm and later taught school until 1861. On August 21, of that year, he enlisted as a private in Company K, Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was soon thereafter made commissary of the regiment. He saw service through the war and his command engaging in the battles of Fredericktown, Siege of Vicksburg, Jackson and Cotton Plant, Fort Esperanza (Texas), Spanish Fort, Blakely and other minor engagements, and spending one entire year at Brashear City, La. Remaining in the service during the pacification of the South, he was finally paid off at Camp Butler, Illinois, on December 7, 1865, where he had enlisted. He served in this regiment four years, three months and sixteen days. Mr. Prosser then returned to this county and commenced farming in Fillmore township. His farm comprised 320 acres and he carried on agricultural industries until about fifteen years ago, then disposing of a part of his possessions. In 1887 he became a member of the board of managers of the State Agricultural Society, and for many years served his community as school clerk and in minor offices. In 1886 he was elected to the state legislature, where he introduced and successfully championed the High License bill, which is the state law at the present time. Mr. Prosser has been a life-long adherent to the Republican party and he has stood high in its councils, both locally and in the state. He is a member of the Methodist church in Spring Valley and also of the G. A. R. In 1898, he was elected clerk of the district court, after which he moved to Preston, where he made his home until the close of his official term. After completing his four years as county officer, Mr. Prosser moved to Spring Valley, where he erected a fine home. Here he lives a retired life with his family, but by way of diversion, spends his winters in Florida. On November



15, 1868, the subject of this biography married Emeretta Case, who was born at Gimsbury, Conn., June 2, 1847, and they are the parents of five children. F. Dexter was born June 29, 1870, was married June 6, 1896, to May DeGroat, of Wykoff, and is at present on the old home farm. Rose, born April 18, 1872, was a very successful teacher, and died in 1904. Jesse H., born July 27, 1874, died when twenty-five years of age. Ernest B., born December 11, 1876, married Jennie Conkey, of Preston, and now resides in Miles City, Mont., where he is with the First National Bank. Myrtle M., who was born January 13, 1882, was for some time teacher and principal of the high schools of Olivia and Lake City, Minn., and for two and one-half years was in the high school in Miles City, Mont. She married Warren Heins and now resides in Olivia, Minn. Each of Mr. Prosser's children completed the high school course in Spring Valley and both daughters were alumnae of Hamlin University.

**John C. Keenan** was born in Ohio, August 20, 1854, son of James and Mary (McTigue) Keenan, who located in that state in 1850 and came to Spring Valley in 1856, settling and staking a claim on section thirty-two. The mother died in 1884, and after her death James Keenan returned to Ireland where he died in 1894. John C. never had the advantages of a public school education. He worked on his father's farm till twenty-five years of age, and then started out in life for himself. Some years ago he moved to Spring Valley where he has since made his home. He is a Republican in politics and has been for four consecutive terms elected mayor of Spring Valley. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and of the Elks of Rochester. On November 25, 1898, he married Margaret Duggan, of St. Paul, and they have a very pleasant home in the western part of the city.

**Ole Aamot**, a successful and popular clothier, whose store in Spring Valley is always well stocked with the latest styles in men's furnishings, was born in Grand Meadow on Christmas day, 1870, son of Aslak and Thora Aamot, who came to this country from Norway in 1853 and settled in Daue county, Wisconsin, where they made their home for three years, then coming to Grand Meadow, where they farmed until 1902, the father dying in 1903 and the mother still living in Grand Meadow. Ole, the subject of this sketch, attended the common school of his home town and after completing his studies there, went to Rochester and entered the Darling Business College, attending this school for three different years. In 1892 he came to Spring Valley and accepted a position as clerk for John Leuthold, in his clothing store. In 1903 he formed a partnership with

Mr. Leuthold. The Spring Valley store is one of "The fifteen Store System," which is represented by three stores in Kasson, dry goods, men's furnishings and shoes; one store in each of the following towns: Kenyon, Waterville, Waseca, Owatonna, Sargent, in Minnesota; one in Chippewa Falls, Wis.; one in Redfield, S. Dak.; one each in Osage, Nashua, Northwood and Green, in Iowa. This system buys together for market advantages and the members meet four times each year, twice in Chicago and twice in St. Paul. Mr. Aamot conducts the store formerly occupied by Mr. Leuthold, who is now in St. Paul. Politically, Mr. Aamot is an independent voter and he has not sought public office. On August 18, 1897, he married Tillie Hanson, of Spring Valley, a daughter of Ole Hanson, and their marriage has been blessed with a son, Arthur Loren.

Ralph Dwight was born in Wayne county, New York, August 20, 1832, son of Deloss and Phoebe Dwight. He lived in New York till 1840 when the family moved to Potter county, Pennsylvania, where he received his education and later was employed in lumbering until twenty-two years of age. In 1854 he drove from his former home in Pennsylvania to Spring Valley, and on August 4, took a claim of 160 acres, on section 30, Sumner township, which he broke and where he erected a log house in which he lived nine years. In 1863 he sold this land to his father and bought land near Cedar Falls, Iowa, and here made his home for many years. Later he gave up farming, sold his land and moved to Montevideo, Minn., where he constructed and operated an elevator. Disposing of this after two years he took a homestead in Day county, South Dakota, and lived on this nine years. He later left this farm to the management of his sons and he returned to his former home in Iowa. Then wishing a more western home he went to the extreme north-western portion of the United States and bought a fruit farm only ten miles from Puget Sound. He however was not content there and returned to Iowa for a time and some years ago came back to Spring Valley where he has since lived. He is a member of the Spring Valley Lodge, A. F. & A. M. On June 26, 1853, he married Nancy Ham, a native of New York. To this union have been born six children. Ida married Michael McMurray and lives in Iowa. Deloss is a farmer in Idaho. Rensaler is a farmer of Day county, South Dakota. Frank is a farmer in Washington. Alice married John Wilson and lives in Iowa. Thomas J. is at home. In politics Mr. Dwight is a Democrat. The Andover "Gazette," Andover, Day county, South Dakota, on October 24, 1890, said: "Ralph Dwight, of Homer township, left Monday evening to take up his residence near his former home in Iowa. No man will be missed

from among the large list of his friends more than he. Mr. Dwight came here in the fall of 1882 to look up a home and chose the spot where he has since lived. To say that he has since proved himself a worthy citizen, a valuable member of the community in every sense, and one of the best of neighbors, is stating the case mildly. He has been for six years chairman of the board of supervisors of Homer township, and during that time has not only done his full duty faithfully, but the affairs show the watchful care which has been exercised in keeping the township out of debt, and today no township in this county nor in the state is in better shape financially than Homer. The same watchful care which has been exercised in every public matter which has been intrusted to him is found in the management of his private affairs. With one accord we all feel that in losing him we meet with a loss which we can ill afford. Wherever he goes he will carry with him the good wishes of the whole community."

**M. O. Ladsten** was born in Stavanger, Norway, June 27, 1847, son of Ole and Gunla Ladsten. He was educated in Norway, and came to America in 1892, making his way directly to Fillmore county, and purchasing his present place of eighty acres in sections 19 and 20. He now successfully carries on general farming. He belongs to the United Norwegian church and votes the Republican ticket. He was married in Norway, in 1869, to Inga Olson, born in 1846, and they have five children: Ole, Nels, Gustav, Sievert and Engel.

**Henry Prosser** was born in Schoharie county, New York, on August 3, 1812. When five years of age, he went to Indiana with his parents and there was educated and grew to manhood, working with his father on the farm. In 1849 he moved to Marion county, Illinois, where he was also employed at farming and at carpentry and mastered the latter trade, being known as an energetic and hardworking man. Not content with advantages offered in Illinois, he, in 1856, came to Minnesota and located in Fillmore county, where, making use of his trade, he erected a frame house. Mr. Prosser was married April 14, 1833, to Nancy Jones, a native of Indiana, who was born July 9, 1815. To them a family of ten children were born. America, born March 7, 1834, became Mrs. J. W. Parrill, and died May 1, 1886; L. H. is a prominent citizen of Spring Valley; Harvey C. was born April 29, 1837, and died January 26, 1911; Louise, born April 5, 1839, is now Mrs. H. H. Wallace of Spring Valley; Charles W., born July 15, 1842, now resides in St. Louis; Harrison C. was born January 30, 1845, and lives in California; Emily, born November 9, 1847, is now Mrs. G. H. Little, of Spokane, Wash.; Lowry W.,

born March 7, 1850, is an extensive farmer and horticulturalist of LeRoy, Minn.; Annie, born July 3, 1852, became Mrs. A. L. Baldwin, of Lyons county, Minnesota, and Hamilton R., born May 25, 1854, now lives in Minneapolis and formerly was a resident of Alaska. Being a man possessed of sterling qualities, Mr. Prosser's children have followed his example and all did him honor. He lived a long and useful life in this county and served his community as justice of the peace and in minor offices. The wife and devoted mother passed away June 7, 1885, and Mr. Prosser's death occurred February 9, 1903, he having lived ninety years, six months and six days.

**Arlow L. Howe**, whose death occurred January 12, 1902, was born at Preble, Cortland county, New York, on September 2, 1826. He grew to manhood in his native state. In young manhood he went west to Illinois and in 1855 he came to Minnesota. He located first at Wykoff. December 20, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and was discharged from the hospital, September 19, 1865. Being a man of strong character and high ideals he was much sought after and was very popular with his acquaintances. On September 25, 1892, he was united in marriage with Emma Rose Baker, a daughter of Thomas Sprague Baker, a veteran of the Civil War, now deceased. For several years Mr. Howe lived a retired life. His death occurred January 12, 1902. His wife, who is a newspaper and magazine contributor, still resides in Spring Valley. Mr. Howe, was married, the first time, September 16, 1850, to Sarah McGau, who died March 12, 1855, leaving one son, William. For his second wife he was married, February 25, 1857, to Hannah Albro, who died December 14, 1884, leaving one daughter, Elsie, now Mrs. James Kinch. Mr. and Mrs. Kinch have one son, Arlow S.

Thomas Sprague Baker was born in Oneida county, New York, February 1, 1827. He there received his education and later moved with parents to McHenry county, Illinois. The family in 1851 moved to Delhi-Delaware county, Iowa, and in 1855 to Fillmore county, Minnesota. February 26, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served with some distinction. He died October 1, 1864, and is buried in an unknown grave at Pine Bluff, Ark. On January 1, 1850, he married Alsena Tubbs, of Otsego county, New York, and to them were born three children. Georgiana Luella married Mark Seeley, of San Jose, Cal. F. Adelbert married Isabelle Maude Mahurin, of Spring Valley. Emma Rose married Arlow L. Howe. The widow of Mr. Baker resides in Spring Valley with her daughter, Mrs. Howe.

**Congressman Sydney Anderson** was born in Zumbrota, Goodhue county, Minnesota, on September 17, 1882. Both his parents were of Scandinavian birth. His father, Charles B. Anderson, was a native of the neighborhood of Gothenburg, Sweden; his mother, Anna Knudsdatter Strand, came from the valley of Hallingdal in Norway. For several years his father held the position of postmaster at Zumbrota.

The career of Mr. Anderson, still a young man, is one of those enchanting romances which only are possible in the new world, and now only in the West. His father was one of those sensible men who believe that the best education for a boy is an early acquaintance with work. So at the age of twelve years young Anderson began spending his summer vacations from school at work on different farms in the neighborhood of his home town. From that time on work and study were his constant companions, and he never slighted either. While attending the Zumbrota high school, the war with Spain broke out. For some time the young high school student had belonged to the local State Militia company. He was wild to go to the war, and succeeded at last in getting the consent of his parents to enlist. He became a non-commissioned officer in the Company D, Fourteenth Minnesota Infantry Regiment. But his regiment saw no actual warfare; the experience was limited to fighting malaria and typhoid in the camp at Chickamauga.

After Mr. Anderson had been honorably discharged from the army, he again took up his studies at the Zumbrota high school, graduating from same in 1899. He then decided to study law, in spite of the fact that he was thrown entirely on his own resources. By hoarding the money he earned as a farm worker during the summer months, he was enabled to spend the winters of 1899 and 1900 attending the Highland Park College, a law school at Des Moines, Iowa.

Then entered love's young dream. June 16, 1901, he was married, at St. Paul, to Florence Douglass, whose widowed mother resided at Little Falls, in northern Minnesota. Originally Mrs. Anderson's parents hailed from the state of Maine. Immediately after the wedding the groom took a job as a laborer in a saw mill at Little Falls. With the money earned that summer and fall, Mr. Anderson returned to Minneapolis in December, 1901, to continue his law studies. He got a minor position with a Minneapolis law firm and began attending a night law school, the young couple meanwhile living in but one room.

It was a period of vicissitudes, but his stubborn courage, his unqualified belief in his own future, his unlimited ambition at last brought him to the goal. In June, 1903, he took the examinations and was admitted to the bar. For a few months longer he



HON. SYDNEY ANDERSON

remained in Minneapolis; but the same fall he was offered a position with a law firm in Kansas City, Mo. He spent the following winter there and found that the climate did not agree with him. So in the spring of 1904 he returned to his native state looking for a location to hang out his shingle as a lawyer.

He decided on Lanesboro. It was a hard place to work up a law practice, but Mr. Anderson was not to be discouraged. He stuck it out, and soon the people began to realize his ability and his knowledge of the law. The Fillmore County Business Men's Association at this time elected him as their secretary, a position he filled until 1911. His winning personality made him many friends, and in 1908 he made a campaign for election as county attorney of Fillmore county, but lost out in a three-cornered fight.

In 1910 political conditions in the First Minnesota district were in a state of great unrest. There was a wide-spread dissatisfaction with Hon. J. A. Tawney, who for eighteen years had represented the district in Congress. The progressive Republicans sought in vain for a standard bearer, but all the old war horses lacked sufficient backbone to go up against a man who was supposed to be a giant in political strength. At last some of the leaders of the progressive movement bethought themselves of Mr. Anderson, and he was requested to make the run. After a short hesitancy he decided to stand as the candidate for Congress of the progressive Republicans. And now began a political campaign which was watched with interest by the entire nation. As a campaigner and public speaker Mr. Anderson proved himself to be a regular cyclone. At the primary election in September, that year, Mr. Anderson was nominated as the Republican candidate for Congress with a majority of nearly 2,700 votes. At the general election in November, Mr. Anderson easily defeated his Democratic opponent with a majority of 3,500 votes less one.

Mr. Anderson took his seat in Congress in March, 1911. While as yet he has not served out his first term, he is already recognized as one of the very ablest new members of the Sixty-second Congress, and there are over 100 new members of that body. One of his first acts was to introduce a bill for the construction of a National Railway in the territory of Alaska, a bill which has created nation-wide interest and is being endorsed by all who are interested in developing that immense and treasure-filled American territory.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two children, one son, Sydney, born July 18, 1905, and one daughter, Derrice, born December 19, 1909.

**Ola Martin Levang** was born April 27, 1869, in Ranen, Nordland, Norway. While yet a babe his parents moved to Mosjøen in the neighboring valley of Vefsen, which little city he considers his home town. His father was a sea captain, who later settled down to the more peaceful life of a merchant; he died in 1892. The mother, still living in Norway, bore the maiden name of Christine Överland and belongs to the well-known Drontheim family of that name.

As a boy Mr. Levang attended educational institutions in Drontheim and later in Kristiania, the capital of Norway. While studying at the university there his father met with financial reverses, and it was necessary for the young man to discontinue his studies. He decided to emigrate to the United States, and arrived penniless and friendless in Chicago in August, 1886, a little over seventeen years old. After the usual hardships endured by a newcomer, he at last succeeded in getting a position as "printer's devil" in the office of a Danish newspaper at \$2.50 per week. During his one year in that office he mastered the printing trade to the extent that he was offered and accepted a position as typesetter on a new Danish woman's magazine just then starting at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He spent one year in the Iowa town, then accepting a position as traveling representative for a Danish newspaper published in Minneapolis. While on the road the next two years he visited nearly all the Scandinavian settlements in the Northwest.

Having met his future wife and wishing to settle down, he bought in 1890 a half-interest in a Norwegian newspaper at Sioux City, Iowa, a few months later buying out his partner. On May 16, 1891, at St. Paul, Minn., he was married to Sophie Hansen. The bride was born on December 8, 1869, on the Danish island of Langeland, but came as a child of ten years with her parents to Lanesboro, Minn. Her father, Mr. A. Hansen, was the first photographer to locate in Lanesboro, where he resided for twelve years. Afterwards he moved to Tacoma, Wash., where he is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Levang have no children.

A Norwegian newspaper in Sioux City did not prove a successful financial venture, and in the fall of 1891 Mr. Levang sold the paper and moved to Tacoma, Wash., where his wife's family was then located. For the next four years he worked at his trade on different newspapers published in that Puget Sound city. In 1896 he began the publication of the first illustrated Norwegian magazine ever published in this country—*Skirnir*, the old Norse name for "the messenger of the gods." It was a literary success, but not financially so, and after two years he was obliged to discontinue publication. During his six years on the coast





O. M. LEVANG

Tacoma as well as other Pacific Coast cities had been undergoing the most critical period in their history. Times were exceedingly hard, and Mr. Levang made up his mind to return east.

Coming back to Minnesota in 1898 he accepted a position as reporter on the *Enterprise* at Albert Lea. During a visit that spring to his wife's childhood home at Lanesboro, he was approached by business men of that village with a proposition to buy out the newspaper there. The publisher of the now defunct *Lanesboro Journal* refusing to sell, inducements were offered Mr. Levang to start a new paper, and he decided to do so. Accordingly the first issue of the *Lanesboro Leader* saw the light of day on October 1, 1898.

The new paper was very well received, and in a few months it had a circulation of over one thousand copies. Year after year the circulation kept on increasing, until at the time Mr. Levang retired as its editor and publisher in November, 1909, its circulation was over 2,500 copies, the largest circulation of any weekly newspaper in the southeastern part of the state at that time.

During the eleven years Mr. Levang published the paper it was regarded generally as one of the most ably edited newspapers in the First Congressional District. It had considerable political influence, strongly advocating the progressive principles within the Republican party. At the time of its sale it was transferred to C. L. Foss, the publisher of the "*Star-Republican*" at Rushford. A year later it was leased by him to the present editors, G. E. Dorival and A. M. Olstad.

After selling his paper Mr. Levang opened a life and fire insurance office in Lanesboro. The following spring he became one of the leaders of the political movement which at the election of 1910 resulted in the selection of his townsman, Hon. Sydney Anderson, as the member of Congress from the district.

One of the main industrial concerns of Lanesboro—the canning factory—owes its existence to Mr. Levang, who as its secretary—without a salary—has been a tireless worker in its behalf. During the first two years of the company's existence it met with heavy financial reverses, and the stockholders in their discouragement desired to drop the business. However, through Mr. Levang's agitation and hard work another start was made, and the factory is now on the high road to success. Due to the press of other duties he this spring resigned from the position as secretary to the company, having held same since 1904.

At present Mr. Levang is holding down the position as secretary to the congressman from the First Minnesota District.

**Rev. H. C. Schmidt**, pastor of the Zion's church of the Evangelical Association at Preston, was born in Plymouth county, Iowa, son of Adam and Caroline Schmidt, the father being the first white boy born in Sioux City, Iowa. The subject of this sketch attended school in his native county and graduated from the Northwestern college at Naperville, Ill. He then entered the ministry, and preached at several places before coming to Preston. He is married and has two children.

**Henry Nupson**, mayor of Preston, financier, capitalist, extensive real estate owner and man of affairs; ex-sheriff of Fillmore county; vice president and one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Preston; director and stockholder in the Harmony State Bank, of Harmony, and for many years one of the successful auctioneers of the Northwest, is one of the prominent and leading citizens, not only of Preston, where he makes his home, but also of the county in which he has lived for more than half a century. He was born in Norway March 9, 1852, and came to the United States in 1857 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Aslag Nupson, when he was a child of five years. He was reared on the homestead in Harmony, and being an industrious, energetic lad, he started assisting his father as soon as his age would permit, working on the farm in the summer time, and attending the district school in the winter. In 1884 he abandoned farm work, and entered the United States mail service, in which he continued two years. At the close of that period, in recognition of his ability and close application to duty, he was elected sheriff of Fillmore county, a position which he filled with courage, discretion and fidelity for ten years, from January 1, 1887, to January 1, 1897. As an auctioneer, Mr. Nupson has won his widest recognition, having done service in this capacity in North Dakota and Iowa, as well as in the various counties of southeastern Minnesota. In this particular line it is said that he has few equals. At different times, Mr. Nupson has served in various local offices, and being of a sociable nature he has allied himself with the Masonic body, being a member of Preston Lodge, No. 36, A. F. & A. M., in which he has passed through all the chairs, and also of Preston Chapter, No. 32, R. A. M. and Malta Commandery, No. 25, K. T. Mr. Nupson owns considerable land in North Dakota, and some seven hundred acres in Fillmore county. In addition to his pleasant home in Preston village, where he makes his headquarters and looks after his various interests, he has a model farm in sections thirty-three and thirty-four, Preston township. This farm is fitted with all the latest improvements, and is an example of what may be done to make rural life in southern Minnesota comfortable, attractive

and profitable. He also owns the old homestead in section one, Harmony, on which his parents settled in 1857. Mr. Nupson is one of the substantial figures in the prosperity of Fillmore county. In spite of his success and high standing he is genial and approachable, being highly respected by a large circle of friends and associates. The subject of this sketch was married February 26, 1896, to Marry F. Atchison, born in Chatfield, October 26, 1872, daughter of John and Sophia (Melven) Atchison, and this union has been blessed with three children: Henry N., Florence E. and Anna L. The parents of Mr. Nupson were natives respectively of Illinois and New Jersey and settled in Chatfield in 1885.

**Aslag Nupson**, a pioneer, was born in Norway, and came to America in 1857, taking a claim in section one, Harmony township, this county. He devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, and died in 1891 at the advanced age of four score years and nine. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1880. They were a hard-working, god-fearing couple, well thought of in the community in which they made their home.

**K. K. Ness**, who has resided in Amherst township since 1871, was born in Hallingdahl, Norway, on November 14, 1830. When fifteen years of age he left home and went to Wig, near Bergen, Norway, there residing until the spring of 1853, when he embarked for America. On the voyage to this country, Mr. Ness met Gertrude Ramsey, a native of Sogn, Norway, who became his wife the following October. Upon arriving in America, the subject of this sketch located at Long Prairie, Ill., and worked in the lumber yards in Chicago. After his marriage he moved with his bride to Boone county, Illinois, locating where the city of Capron now stands. During the year of 1857 Mr. Ness and his family came further west and this time settled in Glenwood, Winneshiek county, Iowa, and later bought a farm near Decorah. Removing to Minnesota in 1871 he has since made his home here on section thirty-six, Amherst. His wife died March 27, 1898, and he makes his home with Canute K., his son.

**Canute K. Ness** was born in Capron, Ill., September 23, 1854. He acquired his primary education in the common schools and supplemented their course with a year in Decorah Institute. During 1875 and later in 1876 and 1877 he attended business college at LaCrosse, graduating from that institution in 1877. The following year he married Randy Blogsvedt and to them have been born four children, Clara M.; James C.; Amelia, the wife of Louis L. Nelson; and Emma C., living at home. Mr. Ness owns and operates the home farm of 135 acres, which are well

cultivated and most productive. He follows general and diversified farming, together with stockraising. Affiliated with the Republican party, Mr. Ness has been identified with many of the public offices in the township, occupying the office of assessor for six years and being clerk of his school district for some time.

**C. A. Cady**, now deceased, was born in Almond, Allegheny county, N. Y., April 17, 1828, and lived there until fifteen years of age when he went to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he lived six years and then located in Kane county, Illinois. In 1851 he went to California with a party of friends, and for three years conducted a general merchandise business which proved a success from the first. He was one of the very early settlers of Spring Valley, having located here in 1855, and pre-empted 160 acres in section twenty-one, to which he added from time to time until he owned nearly an entire section. Mr. Cady was a public spirited man and one of strong convictions. Many of the early pioneer families received timely aid from him and this aid he gave as a privilege rather than as a duty. On February 2, 1862, he was united in marriage with Susan D. Farmer, of Spring Valley, a native of Vermont, born May 19, 1833, daughter of Hiram D. Farmer, who was the son of a soldier of the American Revolution. Mrs. Cady was one of the county's first teachers and conducted her first school in a room of the first hotel of Spring Valley. She also taught in the first school house in Spring Valley. Mr. Cady died on April 7, 1906, shortly after his return from Florida where he and his wife spent many winters. Mrs. Cady now resides on the old home place with her son George.

**George Farmer Cady**, adopted son of C. A. and Susan D. (Farmer) Cady, was born in 1878. He received his early education in Spring Valley schools and at Shattuck School and later took a business course at the Des Moines Business College. He now follows general farming on section twenty-one, Spring Valley township, where he has about 200 acres under cultivation. Mr. Cady is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Methodist church. On October 17, 1906, he married Daisy G. Cronon, of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and to this union have been born two children, Robert Edmund and Burton Charles.

**Wallace H. Lee**, a prominent real estate dealer of Spring Valley, was born at Watson Creek, this county, December 10, 1877, son of James and Sarah (Preston) Lee. He received the rudiments of his education in the district schools of Fountain township and completed his public school course in the high

school of Spring Valley with the class of 1897. After attending the State Normal school at Winona he taught for seven years in various places, among which were Curry, Carimona, Wilton, North Dakota, where he was principal for two years, and Berthold, North Dakota. He was also county superintendent of schools at Burleigh county, North Dakota. Some time after this he came to Spring Valley and engaged in the real estate business with Thomas Frankson, with whom he remained for one year, after which he entered the business on his own responsibility. Mr. Lee deals mostly in local farm lands and looks after the business of non-residents. He has ever taken an active interest in politics and is a staunch Republican, which party has elected him to the position of town clerk and to minor positions. Mr. Lee is in every respect a man of progressive ideas, and a believer in the development of natural resources, having given much time and attention to promoting water power sites, abandoned as well as new ones. On April 2, 1902, Mr. Lee married Rose Marie Pulford, a daughter of Thomas Pulford, who has been a resident of Wykoff for fifty years. To Mr. and Mrs. Lee three children have been born to bless their home, Thomas, Wallace H. and Harold Albert.

**Clarence H. Farrington**, who owns the Model Variety store at Spring Valley, was born in Jackson township March 2, 1873, son of Grove and Hannah (Tyson) Farrington. The subject of this sketch grew up on the home farm, attended the district school, and later attended Chatfield graded school. In 1903 he went in partnership with his brother, B. D. Farrington, at Fillmore, and later sold out to his brother and went in business in Spring Valley. He has here a store filled with a good stock and is making a strong bid for a large share of the trade of Spring Valley and vicinity. In October, 1897, he married Elizabeth Etta Williams, of Jordan, and to them three children were born: Esther Farrington, May 29, 1899; Alice Farrington, September 12, 1901; Etta Farrington, May 8, 1906. Mrs. Etta Farrington died May 8, 1906, and on August 14, 1907, Mr. Farrington married Millie Catlean, of Osage, Iowa, and there has been born to them one son, Marion George, September 22, 1910. Mr. Farrington is a believer in principles of the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and, being socially inclined, has joined the Modern Woodmen and the Beavers.

**Sidney J. Huntley**, one of Fillmore county's most energetic business men, is hard working, capable, enthusiastic, public spirited and progressive, and although comparatively a new-

comer he has already established for himself a lasting place in the community. He was born in Iowa, November 30, 1868, son of Levi O. and Nellie (Joslin) Huntley, natives respectively of New York and Ohio. In 1883 the family removed to this state and located in Sauk Centre, later going to Duluth where his mother still makes her home, the father having died in 1905. Sidney J. was educated in the common and high schools of Iowa and Minnesota and on leaving school took up work with the "Sauk Centre Herald" where he remained five years, his preceptor being C. F. Hendrick, who, being a competent journalist himself, and a son of the founder of the "Minneapolis Tribune," was entirely competent to give the young man a most excellent insight into the newspaper business. Subsequently Mr. Huntley was connected with the "Minneapolis Tribune" and "Minneapolis Journal" for two years. He soon after bought the "Melrose Beacon," of Melrose, Minnesota, and later the "Dassel Anchor." Disposing of the latter he purchased the "Wykoff Messenger" and came to this county. In 1906 he purchased the "Spring Valley Sun" and came to Spring Valley to make his home. From his previous acquaintance here he was enabled to issue a newsy and influential paper from the start. Wherever Mr. Huntley is known he is recognized as a "booster" and his ability in this line soon manifested itself here. The baseball organization, the street fair and the band have been made possible largely through his interest and application of time and work. Being on the side of civic improvement and city progress he soon came to be prominently connected with the Commercial Club and has for some time been secretary of that organization. The street fair, now an annual event, which is a commercial advantage to the city and an agricultural advantage to the farmers of this locality, was outlined and final plans approved by the Commercial Club largely through Mr. Huntley's influence. Having a spirit for leadership it was natural that he should hold offices, and as success attended his official conduct of affairs it was a certainty that his public duties should become increasingly responsible. In 1909 he became postmaster in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, in which body he had been clerk of the tax committee two years previous. Having widened his acquaintance among men of highest standing in state and federal affairs he was more free to follow his own beliefs than a man could be who looked altogether to local politics and politicians to gain a position sufficiently strong to accomplish results of merit. In his newspaper and in his personal influence he supported those men and those movements which he felt were for the best interests of his county, rather than catering to the passing fancy of the throng. In 1911 he was appointed postmaster at Spring Valley, not at the suggestion of local political aspirants, but because he

had displayed that rare quality of standing by those principles and their representatives which he believed to be right. With his characteristic attention to details he found it impossible to give the duties of his office the time and care necessary and at the same time to give his newspaper the time and care which he believed the public deserved. He therefore has recently sold his paper and printing establishment, which is one of the very best outside the great cities, and devotes himself entirely to his official work.

George H. Churchill was born at Fond du Lac, Wis., May 7, 1860, son of Judson and Celestia (Pasko) Churchill, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, who came to Minnesota in 1866, bought a quarter section in section nineteen, Spring Valley township, here raised their family of eight children and lived the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1904 and the mother in 1888. George H. was reared in this township, attended school here and later studied at the Chatfield high school for two years. He then taught school some time in this county. The following winter, in 1882, he took up a homestead in South Dakota, where he lived eight years. In 1890 he sold his farm there, returned to Spring Valley, purchased 135 acres in section nineteen, and has since followed general farming and stock breeding. He raises from 175 to 200 Red Duroc Jersey swine annually, and keeps cattle, sheep and horses in numbers sufficient for his domestic needs. In politics he is independent, and is now town supervisor, as he has been for the past eight years. Mr. Churchill married Maggie Loucks on March 19, 1884, and to them have been born seven children. Hattie married Martin Jensen, of St. Paul. Irene married Harrison Slack, of Stratford, S. D. Jay is teaching in Mower county, Minnesota. Charles is in school at Spring Valley. Glen, Dorris and Francis are at home. The family worships at the United Brethren church at Frankford.

Edward L. Babcock, retired farmer, now living in Spring Valley township, was born at Ashtabula, Ohio, October 6, 1828, son of Henry and Lovisa (Landon) Babcock, who took him to Licking county, Ohio, and from there to Winnebago county, Illinois, when he was 10 years of age. In that county he grew to manhood and went to school, spending his vacations working on the home farm. When he became 25 years of age he went to Iowa and located in Clayton county, where he farmed for six years, then coming to Minnesota and settling in Carimona township, where he also engaged in farming. On October 10, 1863, he enlisted in Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and



went to the front. He was detailed at garrison work at Chattanooga, Tenn., and honorably discharged at the close of the war. He then returned to his farm in Carimona and remained there for six years, after which he moved to Spring Valley and purchased a farm about three miles north of the town, there living for thirty years. Feeling that his life of hard and useful work deserved a rest, Mr. Babcock disposed of his farm and bought a home on the corner of Warner avenue and Griswold street, in Spring Valley, where he lived until November 15, 1911, when he moved back to the farm, where he now lives in retirement. He is a Prohibitionist and has been elected to serve as member of the school board and as road overseer. He has been an ardent and enthusiastic Baptist communicant for over sixty years and has been deacon in three churches of that denomination, serving in that capacity in Spring Valley for thirty years and now being honorary deacon. He married Mary Ann Chipman on March 14, 1850. Their daughter Luella married Anthony Du Mez, a stock dealer and farmer, and they reside on the old Babcock homestead. Mrs. Mary Ann (Chipman) Babcock was born in Vermont, September 19, 1831, daughter of John and Harriet (Hoadley) Chipman, and with them she moved to Illinois in 1842. Her mother died on January 17, 1880, and her father passed away on his eighty-fourth birthday in 1889.

**George W. Farmer**, one of the county's most venerable citizens, was born in Caledonia county, Vermont, August 16, 1829, son of Hiram and Selina (Snow) Farmer, natives of Vermont and New Hampshire, respectively. In 1833 the family moved to Ohio, where he grew to manhood and received his schooling. When about twenty-one years of age he took up the manufacture and sale of scales through the state of Ohio and continued in this business for more than three years. He then returned home and assisted his father till 1857, when the family came to Minnesota and settled in Spring Valley. His father bought at \$15 per acre the land in section twenty-seven where G. W. now resides, while G. W. took up a claim in Bennington, where he lived three years. This claim he later sold and in 1868 he went east for two years. In 1870 he returned to Spring Valley and began a lumber business, and about this time he was one of the builders of the cheese factory here. In 1873 he sold out his lumber business and went to his farm in section twenty-seven, where he has since resided. On April 10, 1859, he was united in marriage with Lydia Conklin. The Farmer family being one of men strong in body and in character, has had a great influence on the early history of this county. James D. was a prominent lawyer and John Q. a prominent judge. B. F. was an active business man

and with his other brothers was a worker for the upbuilding of this locality.

**Willis H. Farmer** is a native of Ohio, born February 16, 1851, son of Hiram and Selina (Snow) Farmer. He came to Spring Valley in early childhood and has since made his home here. After attending the local schools he continued on the home farm until 1893, when he opened an office and has since been in a general collecting business. He was married in 1882 to Louise M. Crowther, who died in 1893. To this union was born one daughter, Vira, a high school teacher. On December 16, 1896, Mr. Farmer married Julia Smyth, a native of Lake City, Minn. Mr. Farmer is a Republican in politics and has been active in political work, but never sought public office, though he has been constable many years.

**Isaac Lincoln Freeman** was born in Mower county, this state, August 5, 1864, son of Isaac and Cornelia (Hartshorn) Freeman. He was educated in the common schools and then worked with his father. When a very small child his parents moved to Spring Valley township and bought a farm on section 23, where Isaac L. lived until 1904. In 1905 he moved onto his present farm, which he had previously purchased. He farms 180 acres which is all under a high state of cultivation, has a fine herd of Short-horn cattle, which he favors as a general purpose animal, and also raises a good breed of Norman horses, Shropshire sheep and Red Poll hogs. For the past few years Mr. Freeman's many interests have made it imperative that he give over much of the management of the farm to his son. This has been done with apparent good results, leaving him free to attend to his other business enterprises. He is the general agent for the Albert Lea Light and Gas Machine Company, of Albert Lea, Minn., and for this company has charge of the territory in southern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and northern Iowa. He has operated a thrashing machine twenty-four years and his work for the gas machine company comes naturally to him, he being largely of a mechanical turn of mind. On December 29, 1891, he married Mary Graskamp and to them have been born seven children, Harold, Myrtle, Mildred, Lynn, Wayne, Wayland and Ross, all of whom are at home. Mr. Freeman served for several years on the town board and in school office. He is a stockholder in the Spring Valley Creamery Company.

**Isaac Freeman**, deceased, was a native of Vermont, born September 12, 1832, there attending the common schools and later learning the blacksmith trade, at which he did not, however, long continue. When seventeen years of age he went to Massachusetts,

where he was employed as a ship carpenter until 1856, when he came to Minnesota. He located at first in Bennington township, Mower county, but in 1867 came to this county and bought a farm in Spring Valley township. He was married in 1860 to Cornelia Hartshorn, who died in 1867, and to them was born one child, Isaac Lincoln. Mr. Freeman was married December 25, 1874, to Olive Blackman and one daughter was born to them. The daughter, Katie, now Mrs. August Miller, lives with her husband on the old Isaac Freeman homestead in Spring Valley township. Mr. Freeman's death occurred in 1905.

Thomas Frankson, prominent in Spring Valley as a promoter of civic improvement, was born in York, this county, September 16, 1869, and early in life began his education by attending school in what is known as "The Red School House," which was situated near his father's farm. He was later a student in the Lime Springs high school, after which he spent two terms in Breckenridge Institute, and later completed a business course at Valder College, Decorah, Iowa. He subsequently entered the law department of the University of Minnesota and was graduated in 1900. After being admitted to the bar he practiced the profession for which he had so carefully prepared himself for a period of two years, and then went into the real estate business. In this he is engaged at the present time, dealing in North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Texas and Missouri lands. His office, situated on the main business street of the city, contains a large and valuable collection of relics and curios which he has gathered at different periods during his extensive travels; this collection, including a most interesting instructive array of relics of which their owner and the city itself is justly proud. In 1895, Hanna Inglebret, a daughter of John and Julia Inglebret, residents of Carimona, became the wife of Mr. Frankson, and this union has been blessed with three children, Frances, John and Sarah. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church, which they regularly attend. In political views, Mr. Frankson favors those advanced by the progressive members of the Republican party, and he has held many of the responsible public offices in the county, serving as town treasurer for York township for several years, and being elected from the first district to the State legislature in 1910. His beautiful home, which is located well out of the city, was built in 1906, and is connected with the city by means of a broad cement walk which extends the entire distance, and was laid in accordance with his ideas and wishes. His property is given an added attraction by the "zoo," which he began in 1903, when he purchased buffalo and brought them here from Iowa. With these as a start, he brought deer from Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis,

and other animals from other places, making his collection a most notable one. There were elk in his "zoo" at one time, but they have now disposed of. Mr. Frankson has an enviable record for public spirit and progressive ideas, which combined with resolute industry and energy, have been of great value to the city in which he makes his home. Frank and Sarah (Benson) Olson, parents of Thomas Frankson, came to the United States from Norway, the former in 1852 and the latter in 1861. For three years after his arrival in this country, the father was engaged in general farming in Dane county, Wisconsin, after which he came to York township, where he and his wife reared their family of children. He passed away February 23, 1909, and his widow died May 1 of the same year.

**Henry Graskamp** was born in Germany, October 7, 1843, and remained in the land of his birth until he was twenty-six years of age. He then came to the United States and settled first in Wisconsin, working for farmers near West Salem, in La Crosse county. Then he was employed on the railroad for some time. In 1874 he bought forty acres in La Crosse county and began farming for himself. With his native German thrift he was enabled to buy land from time to time until he owned more than 160 acres. This land he farmed with good success until 1900, when he sold out and came to Spring Valley. He now owns a pleasant home here, does some market gardening and lives a retired life. In politics he is a Democrat, but has never sought public office. He is a member of the Lutheran church. On March 10, 1871, he married Nellie Pellup and to them were born five children, three of whom died in infancy. Mary, the oldest daughter, married Isaac Lincoln Freeman, of Spring Valley township, and they have four children: Verna, Raymond, Charlotte and Ruth. Lily married Edward Zimmer, of Fillmore township, and they have seven children: Harold, Merle, Mildred, Lynn, Wayne and Wayland, twins, and Ross.

**Karl Hermes**, a respected citizen of Spring Valley, was born in Germany, February 14, 1834, son of Frederick and Charlotte Hermes. He was educated in the Fatherland and served for three years in the army. In 1870 he crossed the Atlantic and came to the United States and after his arrival here spent several years in New Jersey. Hearing of the greater opportunities offered in the West, he came to Minnesota and settled in Spring Valley, where he opened a shoe shop near where the hotel now stands. He also purchased five and one-half acres south of the village and there made his home. For ten years he conducted his shoe shop, after which he went to Bennington township, in

Mower county, and there farmed four years. In 1905 Mr. Hermes went to the western part of the state and purchased 160 acres in Grant county, where he spent three years and followed general farming. In 1908, he returned to this section of the state and operated a farm near Le Roy for a period of two years, after which he returned to his home in Spring Valley and for some time did a market gardening business. His shoe shop was destroyed by fire and he now lives a retired life. He is a Democrat in his political opinions, but has not been an office seeker. He attends the Lutheran church and is a member of that organization. In May, 1864, Charlotte Liveland became his wife and they are the parents of ten children. Henry is a horse buyer in Spring Valley; Minnie is now Mrs. Brooks, of Minneapolis; Annie is the wife of Martin Garrett, of Canada; Louise is now Mrs. Dave McCall, of Minneapolis; Laura is married and resides in Minneapolis; Maggie is the wife of a farmer in North Dakota; Lena married an Idaho fruit farmer; Fritz lives on a farm near Minneapolis; Hattie is married and lives in Seattle; Louis is in the wholesale meat business in Michigan.

**Dunbar M. Leach**, deceased, was born in Kirby, Vt., February 11, 1837, son of Arunah and Electa (Mason) Leach. In 1866 he came to Bloomfield township and lived on the farm till 1897, at which time he moved to the village of Spring Valley. After moving to Spring Valley in 1897 a very attractive home was bought in the northeastern part of the city, which has since been the family home. In politics he was a Republican and though he never was anxious for public office he was for eight years town clerk in Bloomfield township and also served in the state legislature. He was married, March 14, 1862, to Sarah A. Roberts, of Ohio, daughter of Edward Roberts, one of the early settlers of Wisconsin. To this union have been born six children.

**John N. Graling**, one of Spring Valley's most highly esteemed citizen and an honored veteran of the Civil War, was born in Germany, November 16, 1836, and came to the United States when he was 10 years of age with his parents, Conrad and Gertrude Graling. The family located in New York, where they remained for eight years, after which they came to Minnesota and settled in Forestville township, where they were engaged in general farming. John N. acquired his education in New York and for five years taught school in Wisconsin and Minnesota, doing farm work during vacation periods. Some time later he rented his father's farm, which he had charge of until 1874, when he came to Spring Valley and engaged in the grain and elevator business. He was united in marriage in 1862 with Lydia Henderson, who died four years later, leaving Terrence, now living

in North Dakota, and Ernest, now deceased. In 1868 Mr. Graling married Josephine Henderson, and they are the parents of Milo J., who is associated with his father in business at Spring Valley; Lydia G., now Mrs. Scofield, living at home, and Verney, a successful electrician at Niagara Falls, N. Y. In February, 1865, Mr. Graling enlisted in Company K, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, receiving an honorable discharge July 3 because of illness contracted while in service. He was a staunch member of the Republican party until 1872, when he became independent in his political views. He was elected to serve as a member of the legislature three times, dating first in 1874, next in 1879 and then in 1881. For seven years he has been a member of the village council and for nine years has served on the school board. His public spirit is further evidenced in his active work in assisting to establish a library, on the executive board of which he has served for five years. These responsible offices which he has so satisfactorily occupied prove his fitness and ability, and the regard in which he is held by his town and county. He is an active member in the I. O. O. F. and the G. A. R.

**J. A. Stevens**, well known photographer in Spring Valley, first saw the light of day at Perry, Lake county, Ohio, November 7, 1849, son of Otho and Charlotte (Simon) Stevens, who came to Minnesota in 1857, locating in Spring Valley, where the father conducted a mill until the time of his death, which occurred in June, 1905. The wife and mother still resides in Spring Valley. J. A., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the schools of Spring Valley and when thirteen years of age left his books and went to work in his father's mill, where he remained for eleven years. In 1873 he accepted a position as engineer in a sash, blind and door factory of Whitman & Brown in Spring Valley and worked for this concern for four years, after which he took up photography. After learning the photographic business Mr. Stevens opened a studio for himself in 1879, and for over thirty-three years has been in the same business on Broadway, in Spring Valley. Politically he endorses the tenets of the Republican party, but has not been a public office seeker. He attends the Methodist church and is a member of the Blue Lodge of Spring Valley, also a Royal Arch Mason. Mr. Stevens married Georgia Gleason in July, 1874, and they are the parents of a daughter, Eva, who is now the wife of C. H. Vanderhoof, of Baraboo, Wis.

**Stephen M. Wilder**, now deceased, was one of those useful citizens whom every community needs, and yet which so few possess. Born in St. Paul, July 6, 1858, he came to Spring Valley with his parents when seven years of age, and attended the

schools here. With ripened manhood many honors and responsibilities were thrust upon him. For a period of twenty years he was the moving factor of the Spring Valley fire department, serving at different times as its chief and as its treasurer. Eight years he was deputy in the postoffice and had charge of the office four years, bringing the service to a high degree of efficiency. Six years he was state deputy oil inspector. For fifteen years he served on the council. For a long time he was president of the Cemetery Association. More recently he was a member of the library board and an active worker in the cause of establishing the Putnum agricultural school at Spring Valley. These positions, however, represent but few of the activities in which he was interested, and his death, June 30, 1911, left a vacancy in the community which will not soon be filled. In addition to his civic and political activities he was an ardent temperance and church worker, being a trustee in the local Methodist Episcopal church. His wife, whom he married January 30, 1901, was Estelle Learned.

**S. Crippen Lobdill** is the only pioneer merchant who is today in business in Spring Valley. Born in Ohio, he enlisted at the outbreak of the war in the Twenty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and in this command saw active and honorable service. After his discharge he returned to Ohio. In 1864 he went to Wabasha and took up work in a tin and coppersmith shop and hardware store and from that time to the present he has been either directly or indirectly connected with business in that line. In 1868 he came to Spring Valley and opened a hardware store on the site since occupied by him. After one year he formed a partnership, which was continued for three years, at the end of which time it was dissolved and Mr. Lobdill continued as the sole proprietor of the business. In 1898 other business responsibilities became so pressing it was found necessary for him to withdraw from the active management of the store, leaving the business in the capable hands of his son, L. T. In 1898 S. C. Lobdill was appointed by the president as collector of internal revenue, which work takes nearly all his time. In September, 1865, the subject of this sketch married Josephine Farnam, of Wabasha, and to them have been born seven children.

**William L. Kellogg**, one of Spring Valley's venerable and most highly esteemed residents, was born May 1, 1837, at East Springfield, Erie county, Pa., son of Ruben and Eleanor (Crawford) Kellogg, the former of whom died when William L. was but six years of age. The subject of this biography grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and was educated in the common schools.

and at a private seminary. When nineteen years of age he, with his mother, two brothers and a sister, came to Spring Valley, arriving here May 2, 1856, and taking a claim in Bloomfield township, but making their home in the village of Spring Valley. In 1856 and 1857 Mr. Kellogg taught school in a building in which Frank Waukoski now lives on section twenty-seven, this being the first school held within the present limits of the village. He also taught in the Bateman district, Forestville township, during the winter months of these same years. Later he was employed in a store in Spring Valley for a period of six months and in 1858 was elected to the office of town clerk, a position he held continuously from 1862 until 1899, with the exception of three years, during which time he was out of the county, thus making a total of thirty-four years in that office, a record of which one should be justly proud. From the year 1873 until 1894 Mr. Kellogg was annually elected village recorder, with the exception of one year. Since 1894 he has annually been elected village treasurer. He was also a member of the school board for two years, being clerk of that body in 1886. During President Harrison's administration he was appointed postmaster, holding that office from 1889 until 1893. From 1868 until 1872 he was justice of the peace and he has also served as county commissioner for one year. In 1886 Mr. Kellogg went to Duluth and there became clerk for the Railway and Warehouse Commission, where he remained until 1888, then returning to his home in Spring Valley, where for more than twenty years he has dealt in real estate and fire insurance. He is clerk of the Congregational church, having held that position for forty-seven consecutive years. He has also been senior deacon in this church for thirty-four years. Politically Mr. Kellogg has ever been a supporter of the principles endorsed by the Republican party. On May 9, 1872, Alzina C. Cummings became his wife and their marriage was blessed with four children: Roy L., who died in infancy; Milo L., who married Helma Hammer; Clara E.; and Menton M., who married Fannie C. Stetzel and has one daughter, Bernice S. They all live in Spring Valley. Of the family who came here in 1856, the subject of this sketch and one brother, Samuel Crawford Kellogg, are the only survivors. Mrs. Alzina (Cummings) Kellogg entered into rest on March 11, 1899.

Lyle Hamlin, the efficient cashier of the First National Bank in Spring Valley, was born in Forestville township, this county, June 18, 1882, son of L. D. and Josephine (Gates) Hamlin. He received his elementary education in the common schools of Forestville, and later graduated from the high school in Spring Valley with the class of 1903. He then entered the law department



of Minnesota University where he began the study of law and remained one year. Being offered a position in the First National Bank as book-keeper he accepted and served the institution in that capacity for a time with such ability that he was made assistant cashier. In January, 1910 he was made cashier, a position he still occupies. He was married July 25, 1906, to Ona Russell, a native of Houston county, born November 7, 1886. To them have been born two children, Harlan Russell, born April 19, 1907, and Dorothy Alice, born January 7, 1910. These children are the fourth generation of the Hamlin family living in Fillmore county, their great grandfather, Alonzo Hamlin, who is still living, having come here in the earliest days. The family worships at the Congregational church. The subject of this sketch has done excellent work as a member of the Spring Valley library board, and has done other public service. He is a member of the Commercial club, and affiliates with Spring Valley lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Hamlin is a gentleman of unusual energy and business ability and occupies a position such as many a man has been content to spend a large portion of his business life working toward. He is of the type of young business man of wide experience and sound judgment and assured position in whose hands must be left the affairs of the future.

**Everett Jones**, banker, business man and real estate dealer, was born in Erie county, N. Y., October 4, 1851, and was brought to Chatfield, in this county, in 1857, by his parents, Chauncey and Melissa Jones. After attending such schools as the public educational system of Chatfield afforded, he subsequently pursued higher courses in the state university, at Minneapolis. Thus equipped for life, he taught school for two years, and then engaged in agricultural pursuits seven miles northwest of Chatfield, in Olmsted county. This vocation he was successfully following in 1876, when the accidental explosion of a steam threshing boiler seriously injured him, and incapacitated him from further manual labor. A few years later he sold his farm, moved to Chatfield, and engaged in the private banking business for five years with A. L. Ober and A. F. Lombard. At the end of this period he sold out to his partners and removed to Spring Valley where he purchased a small private bank which had been established some six months previous by A. L. Ober and T. A. Sorenson. After a period of ten years during which time Mr. Jones was sole proprietor, this institution was merged in the First National Bank, of Spring Valley, which was organized at that time, and of which Mr. Jones was elected cashier and managing officer. Six years later, owing to advancing age, and failing health, he sold his interest in the institution and retired from its management. Since then he has



MR. AND MRS. ALONZO HAMLIN AND RESIDENCE



been engaged in the buying and selling of improved farms in Fillmore and Olmsted counties. The subject of this sketch was married in 1876 to Mary S. Blake.

**Alonzo Hamlin**, a representative farmer of Bloomfield township, was born in Vermont in February, 1830, son of Simeon Hamlin. He was educated in his native state, and when 20 years of age went to Erie county, New York, where he spent seven years. In 1857 he came west and located on section nine, York township, this county, where he took a claim and built a log house, in which he lived for a year, after which he moved to another part of the township and there resided for four years. In 1862 he left York and went to Forestville, where he settled in section twenty-nine and carried on general farming for thirty years. In 1891 he moved to his present home near the village of Spring Valley, where he owns twenty acres and is living a practically retired life. At one time Mr. Hamlin owned a whole section in Forestville, which he later disposed of. During his residence in that township he served his community as assessor for two terms. He affiliates with the Prohibitionist party and is a member of the Baptist church. On February 2, 1851, he married Naomi Carpenter, who passed away in September, 1869. In 1870, he married Esther Ann Woodin, daughter of Russell Woodin, a farmer of Etna, formerly of New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin six children have been born, Charles Edward, of California; Samuel L., of Forestville; Frank, at home with father; L. D., of Spring Valley; Candace, now Mrs. J. L. Colby and John G., of Forestville.

**William N. Kendrick, M. D.**, now recognized as one of the leading physicians of Fillmore county, was born at Athens, Leeds county, Ontario, Canada, June 15, 1872, son of Samuel and Amelia Kendrick, the former of whom died in June, 1903, and the latter in February, 1908. William N., subject of this biography, received the rudiments of his education in the common schools of his home town, and later attended Almonte Collegiate Institute, after which he entered the McGill Medical College at Montreal, from which institution he was graduated in June, 1896, as president of his class. During his four years' course he stood at the head of his class, and had the honor and distinction of winning several rewards such as "Primary prize," "Prize for general proficiency," and the "Gold medal for proficiency in Chemistry." In June, 1896, he came to Spring Valley and engaged in practice with Dr. J. R. Johnson, until November, 1898, when he removed to Austin, Minn., and formed a copartnership with Dr. C. H. Johnson, where he remained until the death of Dr. J. R. Johnson, when

he returned and took up his practice at Spring Valley, where he has since continued to reside and where he has a large and ever increasing clientele. While at Austin he took courses at the Post-Graduate Medical College, at Chicago, during three different years, to better prepare himself for the practice of his profession. Thus equipped he has demonstrated his qualifications. He is a man of good common sense and sound judgment and his straightforwardness and honest dealings have won for him the confidence and esteem of the people in the community in which he is associated both in a business and social way. His political inclinations are toward the Republican party and he is now serving as president of the board of health of Spring Valley. Fraternally he affiliates with the A. F. & A. M., the A. O. U. W., the B. P. O. E., the M. W. A., and the M. B. A., and is a member of the Spring Valley Commercial club, and of the Automobile club. Mr. Kendrick was married November 14, 1896, to Maud M. Lloyd, a daughter of LeRoy M. Lloyd, and this union has been blessed with two bright children, Dorothy, born December 8, 1899 and William Lloyd, born March 16, 1903. The family faith is that of the Episcopal church.

J. O. Pierce, a respected citizen of Spring Valley, was born at Charleston, Mass., September 2, 1848, son of George and Nancy Pierce, the former of whom died in July, 1904, and the latter September 7, 1911. The father was a veteran of the First Massachusetts and the Second Minnesota Regiment in the Civil War. During the period that his father was in the army, the subject of this sketch located in LeRoy, where he attended the village school until fifteen years old, after which he worked on a farm until 1880. He then secured a position as buttermaker, in which occupation he continued for many years, coming, in 1875, to Spring Valley, where he operated the creamery for a period of ten years. Owing to poor health and the destruction of the creamery by fire, Mr. Pierce gave up this work and accepted a position in the elevator at Dexter. In 1900, he became manager of the elevator at Thornton, Iowa, where he remained for six years, and then resigned to take charge of the elevator in Spring Valley, in the capacity of manager for the LaCrosse Grain Co. Mr. Pierce is an independent Republican, but has never sought public office, although he served as mayor of Thornton two years. He has affiliated himself with the Spring Valley Lodge 58, A. F. & A. M. On June 30, 1876, he was united in marriage with Rosabell Mason, a daughter of Truman Mason of Spring Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce are the parents of one son, Roy, who is engaged in the jewelry business in Odebolt, Iowa. The family faith is that of the Baptist church, of which they have ever been loyal members.

William H. Strong was one of Fillmore county's most prominent citizens and in his death the community suffered a great loss. He was born in Bradford county, Pa., February 23, 1827, the son of John and Ann Strong, and was reared on a farm. When he was sixteen years of age he went at work at the cabinet makers' trade, which he followed four years. Later he went to Mainesburg, Pa., and conducted a hotel three years. In 1854, he came to Minnesota and settled in Carimona. He here built the first house and the first store Carimona had. In 1855 he built and later conducted the "Carimona House" which was the hotel for many years. Carimona was at that time on the main stage line between Dubuque and St. Paul. The hotel and his mercantile business proved very successful and in 1868 he opened a store in Lanesboro. In 1872 he opened a store at Florenceville, Iowa. He was also interested in the development of the country and bought land and rented and sold his holdings. In 1876 he moved to Williamsport, Pa., that his daughter, who is at present Mrs. Charles Smith, might receive the advantages of the college at that place and at the same time live at home. His daughter's college course completed, the family returned to Fillmore county in 1880. Prior to this he had bought out J. C. Easton's interest in the bank subsequently known as the Strong, Farmer & Edwards Bank. This institution continued under this name till 1899, when it was changed to the State Bank of Spring Valley. Mr. Strong organized the first creamery in Spring Valley. In politics he was a Democrat and served the county in many ways as officer, being sheriff in 1855 and 1856. He was a liberal contributor to the Methodist Episcopal church and a trustee many years. He was married September 4, 1851, to Phoebe M. Jaquish who died February 17, 1896, in California, where Mr. and Mrs. Strong spent many winters. W. H. Strong died September 1, 1909.

Z. W. Warner, proprietor of the North Side Dairy, was born in Spring Valley township, on December 12, 1867, son of G. B. and Ellen Warner. He was educated in the Spring Valley schools and at the age of eighteen years began working for his father on the farm. In 1884, he went to Faulk county, South Dakota, where he was employed at general farming for seven years, after which he returned to Spring Valley, and farmed for about two years in Bloomfield township. He then assumed charge of the home place and entered the dairy business. He owns about forty head of cattle, which are mostly Jerseys, and ships the dairy products east to Rushford and west to LeRoy and Brownsdale, aside from supplying the local trade. Mr. Warner owns 87½ acres of land on which he has erected a fine stone silo and made many other improvements, making his home in a fine brick house which his

father built in 1881. He votes with the Republican party and has been elected to serve as town clerk for four years. He is a member of Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M., also of the M. W. A. On January 1, 1880, he was united in marriage with Nellie Hill, daughter of H. G. Hill of Spring Valley. They have an adopted son, Earl.

**G. B. Warner**, deceased, was for many years an esteemed citizen of Spring Valley. He was of Canadian birth and came to the United States as a boy, locating in Michigan, where he was educated and grew to manhood. In 1854 he came to Minnesota and settled on section twenty-eight, Spring Valley township, where he acquired 160 acres of land, which he broke, cultivated and made productive, and where for many years he carried on general farming. In 1862, when the frontier difficulties arose, Mr. Warner enlisted in Bracketts battalion, served out his enlistment and was honorably discharged. He was united in marriage with Ellen Cowles of Wisconsin, in July, 1863, and they became the parents of several children: Amy married Charles Byers, of Spring Valley; George H. is a farmer in the same township; Z. W., is proprietor of the North Side Dairy of Spring Valley; and Nelson is engaged in the real estate business at California. The wife and mother entered into rest on November 28, 1882, and Mr. Warner's death occurred September 27, 1905. He was one of the pioneers of Fillmore county, who accomplished much toward its growth and development. In all dealings, either of a social or business nature, he won the respect and esteem of those with whom he associated.

**Rev. Horace H. Wallace**, esteemed resident of Spring Valley, was born in New Hampshire on May 10, 1840, son of Orphus and Fanny (Bradly) Wallace, natives of New Hampshire, who came to this state in 1856 and pre-empted land near Wykoff, where they resided for twenty-four years, after which they moved into Spring Valley and here spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1886, aged eighty-five years and seventeen days, and the mother on June 20, 1891, aged eighty-eight years and eight months. Horace H., the son, was educated in Illinois and Beloit, Wisconsin. After completing his studies, he went to work for his father on the farm and continued in this occupation until 1881. On October 11, 1861 he enlisted in Co. C, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and went south. The following year he came north to assist in quelling the Indians and served in this campaign for three months, after which he again went south and saw service in many engagements, among which were the siege of Vicksburg, the battle of Little Rock, and the battle of Fitz Hugh's

Woods, where April 1, 1864, he was wounded in the shoulder, causing him to spend seven months in the hospital at Little Rock and Pine Bluffs, Arkansas. On November 14, 1864, he was discharged, after which he resumed his former occupation of farming. He moved to Spring Valley some years later and here began to study for the ministry under the direction of the Conference of the United Brethren. He went to Winona county in 1884 and there preached for two years, after which he was called to Otter Tail county, where he remained three years and then went to Cottonwood county, remaining there for three years. His health being impaired, he then came back to Spring Valley and has since resided in that city. He is Chaplain of the Burdick Post No. 3, G. A. R., elder in the Methodist church and a member of that organization, though ordained in the church of United Brethren. He votes the Republican ticket and takes an active interest in affairs of today. On January 1, 1866, he married Louise Prosser, born April 5, 1839, at Spencer county, Indiana, and to them have been born: Bert A., now teaching in the Valley City state normal school in North Dakota; Frances E., a teacher in Spokane, Wash.; and one son, Herbert, who died in infancy.

**George G. Lyman** was born in Northfield, Massachusetts, January 24, 1819. He was educated in the common schools and took up work in the woolen mills of his native state where he soon became foreman. After holding this position for over twenty years he came west and located in Hartland, Wis. He had a mind for mechanical affairs and invented his share of important machines. About the time the hay mower of today came out he had a similar idea patented but was unable to push its manufacture for want of financial means. During his residence in Galena, Ill., where he moved from Wisconsin, he was acquainted with U. S. Grant. In 1871 he came to this county and located in Sumner township, where he farmed several years. He married Ann Eliza Ladd, who died February 8, 1900.

**Purzel Blakeslee**, manager of the Spring Valley Telephone Co., was born in Olmstead county, Minnesota, in March, 1879, son of Samuel Larue and Elnora Blakeslee, formerly of Pennsylvania. He acquired the rudiments of his education in the common schools of Olmsted county and completed his studies in the Spring Valley high school. After finishing his schooling, he returned to his home on the farm and worked for his father four years, after which he started for himself and carried on agricultural pursuits for five years in Forestville township. On September 22, 1906, he accepted a position as lineman for the Northwestern Telephone Co. After six months he accepted a similar position with the

People's Telephone Co. and at the expiration of eighteen months' service was made manager of their Spring Valley Exchange for this company. The company has five exchanges, one at each of the following towns: Racine, Spring Valley, St. Charles, Stewartville and Chatfield, including some 3000 'phones. The Spring Valley exchange covers a radius of nine miles south, seven miles north, eight miles east and five miles west and has about 600 instruments. In December, 1903 Mr. Blakeslee married Edith McKenzie of Forestville and to them have been born three children, Marjorie, Ronald and Patricia. Mr. Blakeslee is independent in political opinions and affiliates with the Masonic Lodge of Spring Valley.

**William Leonard Lyman** was born in Spencer, Worcester county, Massachusetts, June 1, 1865, son of George G. and Ann Eliza (Ladd) Lyman. In 1871 he came to this county with his parents and received his education in the graded and high schools of Spring Valley. He then began work on the Western Progress with Till Hutchison, where he remained seven years, and was later employed on the LaCrosse Republican Leader nine years. Having been interested in music for some years he received the opportunity to go to Chicago and study under George W. Sweet and A. E. Ruff who were then the leaders in voice culture. Here he remained two years and later had a year in the Cincinnati College of Music under B. W. Gorneau. Subsequently he appeared with C. D. Hess in "Olivett" at the Grand Opera House, Chicago, and then appeared with Eddie Foy four seasons in such plays as "Blue Beard, Jr." and "Ala Baba." However his mother's illness made it necessary for him to return home and since then he has followed his trade here in Spring Valley where he has a job office and also handles fire insurance and real estate. He is a member of the Congregational church and director of the church quartette. In politics he is a Republican and in the session of the legislature of 1910 and 1911 he was clerk of the engrossing committee. He was married in December, 1898 to Edith Raabe of Spring Valley and to them has been born one son, Leonel Ladd Lyman.

**Dwight Rathbun**, deceased, was a native of the Empire state, having been born in Onondaga county on May 15, 1829, son of Gamaliel and Lucretia (Richardson) Rathbun, who came west and located in Winnebago county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm for four years. In 1850 he moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and here homesteaded land, remaining there five years, after which he came to this county and settled in Forestville township. Here Mr. Rathbun bought 200 acres of wild land, where for forty years he engaged in agricultural industries. When the





MR. AND MRS. DWIGHT RATHBUN

family arrived they lived in a wagon and they erected a log cabin, which was later replaced by a more comfortable modern dwelling. He also put up good outbuildings and worked with untiring zeal for the general improvement of his home and farm. Mr. Rathbun was affiliated with the Republican party and was honored with election to the legislature, serving for three terms, during the years 1875, 1876 and 1877. He held many offices in the township, having been elected constable for many years, justice of the peace and member of the school board. That he was a man of strong character and unusual ability was proven by the efficiency with which he discharged his official duties and also by the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow men. He was a member and director of the United Brethren church. On March 27, 1853, Mr. Rathbun married Jane C. Monroe, who was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, April 30, 1836, where she lived until thirteen years of age. In 1846, with her parents, John and Roxy (Willis) Monroe, she came to Illinois, where the father farmed for three years, then coming to Minnesota, where he died. To Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun were born Viola, Ida, Edwin, Floyd, Dora, Ella, Vernon and two unnamed who died in infancy. Viola died at the age of nineteen. Ida died at the age of thirty-six. Edwin and Floyd died in infancy. Dora married Richard Plauda, of Elk River, Minn., and they have three children: Fern, Ross and Lynn. Etta married Joseph Whitley, of this county, and died at the age of thirty-seven years, leaving two children, Lela and Bernice. Vernon married Christabel Plummer and lives near Elk River, Minn. In 1887 Mr. Rathbun retired from his active life on the farm and moved into Spring Valley, where he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding in 1903. Mr. Rathbun entered into rest on October 22, 1905, and his death was a severe loss, not only to his family but to the town.

**James M. Poore**, retired farmer, living in the township of Bloomfield, was born in Steuben county, New York, September 20, 1840, son of David and Aurora (Parmenter) Poore, natives of the Empire state, who came to Wisconsin in 1870, there residing for the rest of their lives. James M. received a common school education and when 21 years of age started out for himself. He learned the carpenter's trade in northern Minnesota and worked near St. Paul for five years. In 1876 he came to Fillmore county and bought a farm of seventy-six acres in Bloomfield. Here he made all improvements, erected the substantial buildings which now stand, broke and grubbed the soil and carried on general farming with success. He now owns 125 acres, which he rents. This farm possesses a fine orchard of

150 trees and a greater portion of the land is under the plow. Shropshire sheep raising was one of the principal occupations of Mr. Poore during his management of the farm and he also raised Red and Duroc-Jersey hogs. In 1862 Mr. Poore enlisted in the home guard and assisted in quelling the Indian uprisings on the frontier. In his political opinions he is independent. He was county commissioner of Pine county and town clerk and postmaster at Sunrise, Chisago county, both in this state. For fifteen years he was clerk of district 107, Spring Valley. January 11, 1862, he married Addie M. Frost, born in Massachusetts September 19, 1845, daughter of George S. and Mary F. (Chase) Frost, the former of whom is deceased, and the latter of whom lives with her daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Poore have three daughters: Cora, now Mrs. James Gilbert, of Bloomfield; Lucy, now Mrs. George Gilbert, of Spring Valley township, and Grace M., now Mrs. Milton Albro, of Forestville township.

E. A. Leonard was born in Sumner township, this county, April 24, 1862, son of Elisha and Laura (Reynolds) Leonard. Elisha Leonard and his wife were natives of North Carolina, but were not in sympathy with the southern institution of slavery. Wishing to get away from its unpleasant influence they came west in 1857 and settled for three years in Indiana. In 1860 they came to Fillmore county and purchased a farm in sections twenty-three and twenty-four, Sumner township, where they lived in a log house which they found on the place until 1862, when the present frame dwelling was erected. It was here that this couple lived the remainder of their lives, the father dying February 16, 1896, and the mother May 19, 1906. E. A. Leonard attended the common schools of Fillmore county and later the city schools of Rochester, Minn. Having completed his school days he took up farming with his brother, S. F. Leonard, in Sumner township, on the old home farm, and they continued in partnership three years. He then bought land in section thirty-four, Sumner, and added to this from time to time until he owned 320 acres there. He here made his home for twenty-four years and in those years was busily engaged in improving his farm and attending to the many duties which are imposed by a well kept and thriving business. In 1896 his health failed and it became necessary to rent the farm, on which he continued to live until 1909, when he moved to Spring Valley. He now has a most comfortable home in the northwestern part of the city. Some years ago Mr. Leonard purchased the Tunnel mill, which is one of the landmarks of Fillmore county, and with the mill already on the site and the great power which can be developed from the stream it is probable that the locality may at no far



MR. AND MRS. E. A. LEONARD—MR. AND MRS. S. F. LEONARD

distant date play a strong part in the future development of the county. The subject of this sketch is a member of the Congregational church. He has been some years president of the Farmers' Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company. Politically he is a man of independent mind but holds to the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Spring Valley city council. On May 28, 1886, he was united in marriage to Rachael Hockema, a daughter of H. W. Hockema, who was a veteran of the Civil War and is proud of the fact that he was of the Wisconsin regiment which carried the Eagle. Mr. Leonard, being socially inclined, is a member of the M. W. A. He is also treasurer of the Farmers' Co-operative Shipping Association of Spring Valley.

**R. C. Livingston**, now deceased, was born in Ohio, December 27, 1841, son of George W. and Marcia C. Livingston, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. They were farmers for several years in Ohio, after which they came to Minnesota, where the father passed away in 1876 and the mother three years later, in 1879. R. C., the subject of this biography, went to the country schools and attended Carlton college at Northfield, Minn., one year. He then became interested in photography, working at this business five years in Northfield, afterward coming to Spring Valley and engaging in the same line eight years. Later he traveled for a nursery firm, covering territory in Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in Company E, Fourteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, commanded by the brave J. B. Steadman, and was mustered in July 1, 1862. He was wounded in the battle of Janesburg, September 4, 1864, receiving a gunshot wound in the left thigh and also losing the sight of his left eye. He was honorably discharged in 1865. Mr. Livingston died May 23, 1912, and his death is sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends. A quiet, unassuming man, he had the faculty of winning confidence and esteem, and although he never sought office his opinions on public affairs were highly valued by his associates, while the veterans of the G. A. R. respected and loved him as a loyal and faithful comrade. The subject of this sketch was married November 9, 1870, to Mrs. Aseneath (Rhines) Waldron, and to them was born one daughter, Mary. Mary married Ira Lupien, of Spring Valley, and they have an adopted daughter, Claire.

**C. B. Aarnes**, one of the old and highly esteemed residents of Beaver township, was born October 5, 1843, in Norway, where he lived until he was twenty-seven years of age, working on a

farm and learning the many lessons of industry and thrift which he brought to the United States and applied to the great success of the people and the community with which he has been identified. In the year 1870 he arrived in New York, came west to Iowa, and settled near Decorah, where he worked out six years. During this time, by dint of hard work and economy, he saved money and was thus enabled in 1876 to come to this county and purchase 120 acres of land on section eight, Beaver township. This land was entirely uncultivated and without buildings of any kind. He first erected a log house 16 by 18 feet and in this house, to which he later added, he lived till 1892. He cultivated his land diligently and also raised good cattle of the Durham breed. When the Ostrander creamery was organized he became a stockholder and there for many years disposed of his cream. In these years of hard work he saved some money, kept a sharp lookout for good investments and when he had opportunity bought land until he now owns farms in Lac qui Parle and Aitkin counties, this state, beside his holdings in Fillmore county, more than 800 acres altogether. He also owns stock in the Ostrander elevator and the Ostrander bank. In political views he is an adherent of the Republican party. Though he never sought political preferment he has at times from a sense of duty accepted local offices and has been treasurer of the local school, district 102, for eight years. In 1867 he married Marie Ellness and to them have been born eleven children. The two youngest died in infancy, as did also their first born, Carl Bernard. The second child, Carl, is now married and lives in Beaver township, where he has taken a prominent part in public affairs. Herman is married and is a farmer in Beaver township; Nels, Albert, Jens, Martha and Emil are at home. Henriette keeps house for Carl in Beaver township. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**Carl C. Aarness**, one of the prosperous farmers of Beaver township, was born in Norway, February 18, 1869, and came to the United States when he was a little over one year of age. The family settled first in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they lived till Carl was nine years of age. They later moved to this county and settled in Beaver township. The subject of this sketch attended the common schools and the Decorah Institute at Decorah, Iowa. One year after completing his studies he taught school in this county and then took up agricultural pursuits. He has increased and improved his original farm of eighty acres on section sixteen, Beaver, and has erected all the buildings on the place except the house, which the former owner built. Here he carries on general farming and keeps a good

herd of Shorthorn dairy cattle. Mr. Aarness is a member of the Lutheran church of Ostrander. In politics he is a Republican and has been town clerk for four years. In 1900 he was census enumerator.

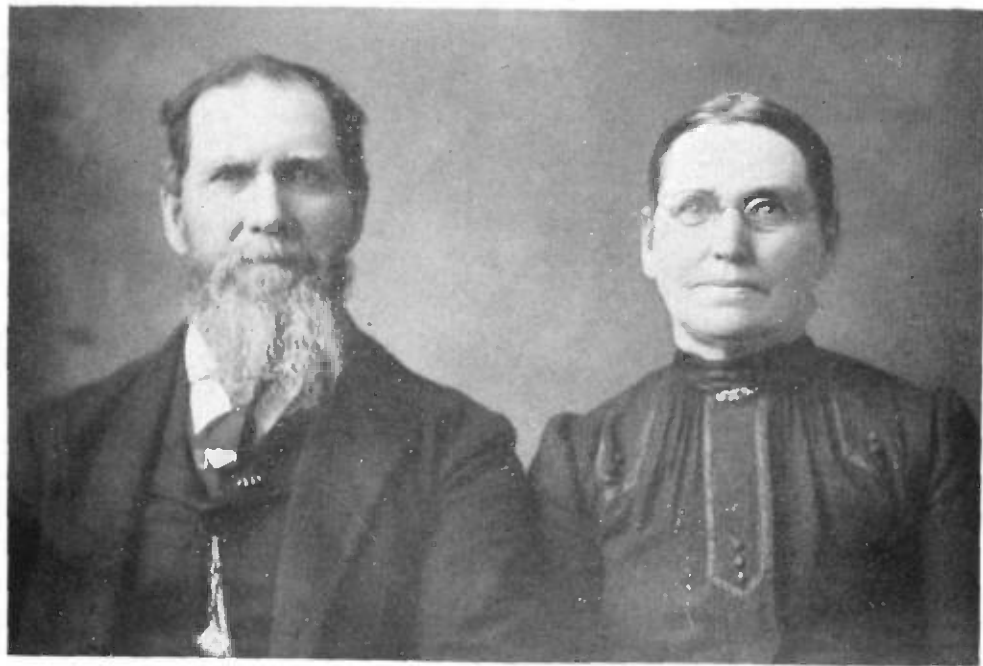
**Lars Hanson Nordgaarden**, deceased, was a native of Norway and there grew to manhood and was married. In 1857 he with his wife and three children crossed the ocean to the United States and in July of that year came to Minnesota and took a claim in section thirty-three, Bloomfield township, where he bought a pre-emption right and here established his home. At the time of his purchase there was on the place but a rude sod shanty, in which the family lived for several years. Mr. Nordgaarden worked for different farmers in the vicinity during the day and at night worked at home building a house, the children holding lighted chips that he might see to work. The house was put together with wooden pins, which took the place of nails, then a scarce article in this region. As the years passed and prosperity crowned his labors Mr. Nordgaarden made many improvements and eventually became one of the substantial farmers in the community. He followed agricultural industries until his death, which occurred June 23, 1863. His widow survived him until September 23, 1890.

**L. H. Nordgaarden**, extensive landowner and scientific farmer, residing in Beaver township, was born in Norway, January 16, 1853, son of Lars (Hanson) and Lise Nordgaarden. When four years of age he was brought to this country by his parents, who located in Bloomfield township, where the subject of this sketch grew up and was educated. Owing to the many duties connected with the management of the home farm, Mr. Nordgaarden was obliged to assist his father during the summer months and so could attend school only winter terms. When he became nineteen years old he completed his studies and then gave most of his time to the home farm. He spent one year in the pineries in Wisconsin and was employed in various sawmills. In 1875 he bought eighty acres in section fifteen, Bloomfield, and there carried on farming for three years, after which he disposed of his property and went to Beaver township, there purchasing eighty acres in section eight. For fifteen years Mr. Nordgaarden lived on this farm and in 1893 bought 280 acres in section sixteen, where he now resides. Here he has made many improvements, cultivated the soil, hewn down timber, erected buildings and made his home one of the substantial places in the community. As he has grown more prosperous he has bought more land and now owns 440 acres of farm land in addition to the

ten of timber in Forestville. He carries on general farming, raises Shorthorn cattle for beef and dairy purposes, and disposes of cream to the Ostrander creamery, being one of its stockholders. He also raises from sixty-five to eighty Poland-China hogs annually and keeps about fourteen horses of good breed. Formerly he was interested in sheep raising, but has now abandoned this line of industry. Mr. Nordgaarden has long voted the Republican ticket and his fellow men have elected him to serve in many responsible offices in the township. He was for fifteen years supervisor of the township and has also been justice of the peace and clerk of school district forty-one for many years. A part of his present farm was formerly owned by Thomas Gates, who purchased it from his father, Levi Gates, who bought it of the Government. A quarter section was bought from Horace Nichols. On March 28, 1875, Mr. Nordgaarden married Oleana Peterson and to them have been born six children. John is married and a resident of Spring Valley; Lars, died September 2, 1904, when twenty-four years of age, by accidental discharge of gun while hunting; Caroline, Herman, Ida and Ole are at home. Ida is a teacher. The family are members of the Lutheran church of Bloomfield.

**A. R. Hungerford**, who for more than thirty-six years has been a resident of this county, was born in Chenango county, New York, May 2, 1844, son of B. and Fanny (Gobel) Hungerford, the former, a carpenter by trade, a native of New York, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. They lived in Chenango county till 1845, when they moved west and made a home in Rock county, Wisconsin. Here the father and mother lived until 1885 in which year both died. The subject of this biography was the youngest of nine children. After receiving his schooling in the common schools of Wisconsin he worked with his father until the outbreak of the Civil War. August 22, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served in the Army of the Cumberland. While on guard at Pointrock bridge he was taken prisoner and was held at Cahawba, Alabama, with thirty-eight others. On March 18, 1865, he was parolled and was sent first to a hospital in Vicksburg, later to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and in the following June to Madison, Wisconsin, where he received his discharge. Seven of the thirty-eight confined with him died in the southern prison. Arriving at home after his war experience he settled at once into the work of the home farm where he continued in partnership with his father until 1876. In the latter year he came to Minnesota and to this county, and on October 1, purchased 160 acres in section twenty-two, Beaver township. This was wild land with no improvements. He put





MR. AND MRS. A. R. HUNGERFORD

up a house 16x20 feet and later erected other buildings as he needed them. Here he has since made his home and his well kept home and excellent farm bespeak the years of toil and close application which have been expended to change the prairie to the farm home of today. By 1896 he was well equipped with buildings but in that year a severe wind storm destroyed practically all. Undaunted he set at work, rebuilding, and as a consequence now has a fine large house and likewise a large barn of modern type together with other buildings essential to the proper up-keep of a large farm. He owns from forty to fifty head of Durham cattle, raises from seventy to one hundred Poland China hogs annually, feeds from forty to seventy-five sheep each winter and has about fifteen head of Belgian horses for farm work and driving. Mr. Hungerford is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Chester, Iowa, which has for many years been the family church. In politics he votes the Republican ticket and is in full accord with the progressive movement. He has been school treasurer four years, justice of peace twenty years, town clerk nine years and assessor four years, still holding the latter office. He was married September 15, 1869, to Anna Gavey, a native of New York city and a daughter of Frederick Gavey. To this union have been born nine children. The youngest died in infancy. Luella married Frank Benson of Harmony. Frederick W. resides in Grant county, Minnesota. Fanny is a trained nurse. She married Lynn McKee of Iowa. Albert B. is a carpenter in Houghton, S. D. Myrtle L. was a teacher. She married Paul Shultz and they live in Marshall county. Irvin V. also lives in Marshall county. Clarence assists his father at the home farm work.

**Bertran Nordgaarden** was born March 7, 1855, in Norway, and on July 4, 1857, landed on the shores of the United States with his parents, who made their way to Bloomfield township, this county, where they took a claim under the old pre-emption act, prior to the enactment of the homestead laws. He grew up on the home place in Bloomfield, attending the country schools and learning those farm duties which have played so strong a part in his later life. After assisting his father a number of years he rented the home place until 1899 and then bought 160 acres in section ten, Beaver, where he has since resided. He here follows general farming and stock raising, keeps a good breed of about thirty Shorthorn cattle and disposes of from twenty to thirty Poland-China hogs annually and keeps six or seven horses for farm work and driving purposes. He is a stockholder and patron of the Ostrander creamery, and also holds stock in both the Ostrander Bank and elevator, for which he has

always a good word and a helping hand. In politics he is a progressive Republican, has served as town clerk of Bloomfield and has been member of the school board since he was eighteen years of age. He is now treasurer of district 105. Mr. Nordgaarden married Hannah C. Ostrud, June 5, 1885, and they have four children: Lars, Laura Irene, Hans and Cora Ethel.

**A. J. Winslow**, one of Fillmore county's long-time residents, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, January 30, 1848, son of H. H. Winslow, who came to this county in 1854, settled in Fountain township, homesteaded a claim on section five and there reared his family of six sons and three daughters. Three years after their settlements here the children began attending the first schools in the township. After A. J. grew to manhood he worked a part of his father's land and later purchased land in Fountain. In 1881 he bought his present farm, which consists of 280 acres in section twenty-three, Beaver township, where he has erected a good dwelling house, barns and such other buildings as are necessary for the proper conduct of a large farm. He follows general farming and stock raising; keeps from forty to fifty head of the Durham breed of cattle, about one hundred head of Shropshire sheep, a large number of the Durock red hogs and several Norman horses. Mr. Winslow's fine home, excellent farm and complete equipment are good indications of his many years of hard labor and painstaking care. In politics he is a Republican and has occupied the offices of town clerk, treasurer and chairman for many years each. On November 23, 1874, the subject of this sketch and Martha Gill, a native of England, were united in marriage and to them have been born two children, Asa B. and Mary C., both of Beaver township. Asa B. conducts the home farm. He married Louise Eggerichs and they have one daughter, Margaret Joy. Mary C. married D. Bonner of Beaver township and they have three children: Lela Leone, Belva May and Eva Bernette.

**Hiram Winslow** was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, July 11, 1837, son of Hosmer H. and Cornelia Winslow, natives of Vermont. In 1854, the Winslows left New York and came west, settling in Fountain township, this county, where they pre-empted 160 acres of land in section five, to which they added to from time to time until they owned 240 acres in that locality. This land was mostly prairie and the elder Winslow, with the help of his sons, broke the land and lived there till near the end of his life. He died in Beaver township. Hiram Winslow received his education in the common schools, which he attended until he was sixteen years of age. He then worked with his parents till he became twenty-two. During his twenty-third year, he went to

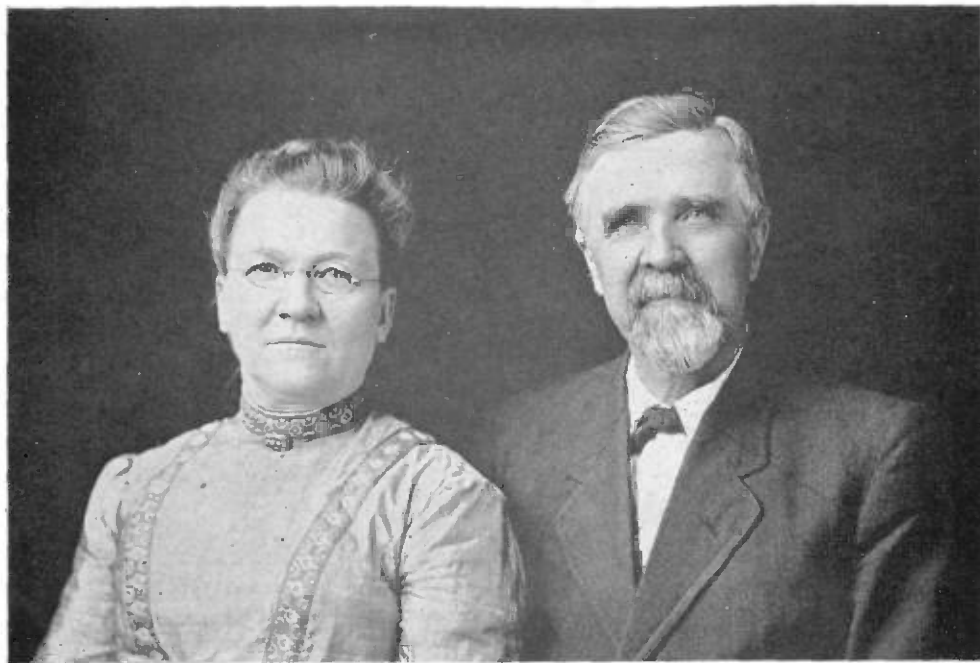
Chatfield and learned the blacksmith trade in C. T. Post's shop. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in Company D, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, but after one year's service was discharged because of ill health. After completing his apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, he returned to Fountain township, where he opened a shop, which he conducted in connection with his farming operations. Here he continued his trade and farmed until 1876 when he sold out and went to section twenty-two, Beaver township, where he has since made his home on 160 acres of excellent land. When he first bought this property there were no buildings on it, but by dint of many years' hard work, in which he has seen the country made, he has now good farm buildings and a most valuable farm. In 1906, Mr. Winslow rented his land and has since lived a somewhat retired life. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Chester, Iowa, which village is his market place. In politics he is a Republican and has been member of the school board in district 114 for more than ten years. He is affiliated with the Masonic order at Chatfield. On October 6, 1871, he married Berlinda Post and to them have been born five children. C. P. lives in Wisconsin; F. B. and May are deceased; Morris lives on the home farm and Bertha married Herman Hoopman. Mr. and Mrs. Winslow have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and continue to enjoy the years as they go by, largely because of the interest formed in the past. In his community, Mr. Winslow is highly esteemed as a man of generous impulse, who is and has ever been ready to assist in all movements for the public betterment of all conditions.

**Augustine V. DeFor** was born at Etna, this county, February 14, 1875, son of Augustine and Lucy M. (Sherwin) DeFor. When a boy, the subject of this sketch attended school near home and later became a student in the Spring Valley schools. After completing his studies, he went to work on the home farm and eventually purchased eighty acres in section twenty-five, where he conducts general farming at the present time. He makes a specialty of Jersey cattle for dairy purposes and manufactures butter for which he finds a ready market. In 1907, he erected a saw mill on the home farm and this is still in operation. Mr. DeFor is independent in his political opinions but has long been a staunch Prohibitionist. He has been elected to serve in many responsible public offices in the township and is the present supervisor, which office he has held for four years. He is president of the board of directors of the Bloomfield Fire Insurance Co. and has also creditably held minor offices. In all positions which he has held, Mr. DeFor has been esteemed for his sound judgment and fair dealings. He married Cora Silsbee on June 8, 1898, and to them have

been born Floyd and Livonia. Mrs. DeFor died April 21, 1912. The family faith is that of the Baptist church and they are members of that organization in Spring Valley.

**Augustine DeFor**, pioneer of Fillmore county, deceased, was born in Canada, where he spent the early years of his life. He married Lucy M. Sherwin of New York and came to Minnesota in 1856, locating in Spring Valley, where it is said he erected the first frame house built in the town, also the second frame dwelling, which is still standing and now occupied by Mr. Lawrence. For several years Mr. DeFor made his home in Spring Valley and followed carpentry work. He built the Wiesbec saw mill and in the sixties moved to Etna, where he built the "Etna Roller Mill," which he conducted for about thirty years. The mill finally discontinued operations owing to the failure of the water supply, and after this Mr. DeFor devoted his entire time and attention to carpentry work, with the exception of various hunting expeditions. On one Christmas day, he killed the last bear slain in this county and its skin is now in the possession of his son. Before coming to Minnesota, Mr. DeFor had fought in the war between the United States and Mexico. He went to California in 1847 and was joined by the army of men who went there in 1849, seeking gold. His death occurred on August 24, 1906, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. His widow resides with the son in Etna.

**Jonas H. McNee**, a successful and progressive farmer of Bloomfield township, was born in Delaware county, New York, on March 25, 1854, son of William B. and Susan Jane (Craig) McNee. In 1855, the subject of this biography came to Minnesota with his parents and located in Fillmore county, where he acquired his education in the common schools. When he became twenty-two years of age, Mr. McNee left school and continued working for his father on the farm until 1882, during which year he purchased land in section nine, Bloomfield township, where he has since resided. Mr. McNee now owns 390 acres, a greater portion of which is under the plow. He has made many improvements on his property, breaking and cultivating the land, erecting good buildings and carrying on general farming, together with stockraising and dairying. He affiliates with the Republican party, and has served in some of the prominent public offices in the township, having been elected chairman of the board of supervisors for eight years, and deputy clerk of the town board for ten years. Mr. McNee has also served on the school board of district 132 for fifteen years, and he is regarded as a public spirited and able citizen. He is a director and stock holder in the Spring



MR. AND MRS. JONAS H. McNEELY

Valley Creamery. On September 29, 1881, Mr. McNee married Martha A. Wooldridge, and they are the parents of seven children, Edith Alma is the oldest. She was married June 20, 1912, to Henry Marsden, of Hendrum, Norman county, Minnesota. William is married and lives on section seven, Bloomfield. Clara Susan, Mabel Alta, Marcia Agnes, and Berenice reside at home. Ella M. died in infancy. The family are members of the First Congregational Church of Springfield.

**William B. McNee**, one of the pioneers of this county, now deceased, was a native of New York. He came to Minnesota in the month of October, 1855, and acquired land in Spring Valley township, on which he remained for less than a year, after which he moved to Bloomfield and settled on section fourteen. Mr. McNee endured all the privations incident to the life of the early pioneer, but as the years passed, he toiled and grew more prosperous, and the later years of his life saw him surrounded by many of the comforts of life. He married Susan Jane Craig of New York and they were the parents of five children, James, Robert, Mary, Jonas and Jennette, all living. Mr. McNee passed away January 23, 1904. Mrs. McNee died January 29, 1911.

**Sever Dugstad**, a well known and prosperous farmer living in Bloomfield township, is a native of Norway, having been born in that country on October 8, 1852, son of Sever and Martha Dugstad, both now deceased. He acquired his education in the schools of his native land, and in 1873 embarked in a sailing vessel for America. After a voyage which consumed four weeks, he landed at Quebec, after which he came to the states and settled in Decorah, Iowa, where he remained for one year. He then came to Minnesota and followed carpenter work for six years in Harmony, this county. In 1880, he moved to Bloomfield, bought 190 acres in section twenty-two and engaged in general farming. As opportunity has afforded, he has gradually added to his original possessions, and at the present time owns 250 acres. His farm is well cultivated and equipped with good machinery for carrying on the necessary work. Mr. Dugstad has erected a comfortable house, commodious barns and all necessary outbuildings, and he is an industrious and energetic citizen. On July 9, 1880, Caroline Johnson of Harmony became his wife, and to them have been born eleven children of whom eight are living. Edmund married Hattie Halvers. They live in Chester, Iowa. John married Ida Ruud. They live at Stanton, N. Dak. Ida married Oscar Olson of Bloomfield. Emil married Emma Gullickson. They live at Butler, S. Dak. Carl, Oscar, Lewis and Ella are at home. Sophia, Oscar and Caroline are deceased. Mrs.

Caroline (Johnson) Dugstad, was born at Harmony, February 3, 1861, daughter of John J. and Mary (Jameson) Johnson, early settlers of Harmony, where they still reside.

Mr. Dugstad is a loyal member of the Lutheran church which the family has regularly attended for many years. He is independent in his political opinions and has not sought public office. For ten years he served on the school board of district 109.

**James Lewis Littlefield**, a representative farmer, who owns 160 acres of land in Bloomfield township, was born in this county on August 12, 1860, son of Lewis and Harriet (Weber) Littlefield, natives of Massachusetts, who came to Minnesota about 1858 and located in this county, where they homesteaded 160 acres. The father died in 1868, when but 38 years of age, and the mother conducted the farm, assisted by James, the subject of this sketch, who grew to manhood on the home farm and acquired his education in the district school near. When but sixteen years old he assumed charge of the homestead, and has since carried on general diversified farming and dairying. He has become more prosperous as the years have passed and his industry and good management have resulted in good crops and well tilled soil. He married Emma Sophia Stevens, a daughter of Otho Stevens of Spring Valley, on December 25, 1884, and they are the parents of three boys. Clarence Harold and Howard are at home and Weber is now in Beaver. Mr. Littlefield is a member of the Prohibitionist party and attends the Union church at Etna, to the support of which he is a liberal contributor.

**Jacob J. Hillestad**, now living in Bloomfield township, is a native of Norway, born October 30, 1848. He received his schooling in Norway and worked at several different occupations until he was twenty-two years of age. In that year, 1870, he sailed for America and came west to Wisconsin where he settled in Rock county and worked for two years. In 1872 he came to Minnesota and to this county, where he bought 160 acres of land in section nine, Beaver township. The land he bought was wild and entirely unimproved but he erected a frame dwelling house and worked hard to get the land in a good state of cultivation. After this was accomplished and he found that he could spare the money he bought land from time to time till in 1910 he owned 560 acres in sections three, four and nine, Beaver. He sold all this land in the latter year and went to Bloomfield where he purchased 240 acres in sections eighteen, nineteen and twenty. He here has a very pleasant and comfortable home with all the facilities for successful farming. Nearly all of the 240 acres are under a high state of cultivation and his farm is one of the excellent ones of





MR. AND MRS. N. G. NELSON AND RESIDENCE

the locality. He was married May 24, 1877 to Sophia Halver, born in Beaver township, September 19, 1860, and died March 2, 1910. Mr. Hillestad has seven children: Sarah, John Emil, Henry Alfred, Jeanette, Alice, Nels Christian and Ellen Josephine. Mr. Hillestad is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is independent and never cared for public office. He has, however, been for more than twenty-five years a member of the school board in Beaver township, also assessor and supervisor while he lived in Beaver township. He has a number of business interests at Ostrander.

Nels G. Nelson was born at his present home in the town of Bloomfield on January 31, 1868, son of Charles K. and Annie Nelson, who came to the United States from Norway in 1861 and settled on section sixteen of Bloomfield township where they bought eighty acres. His father went with the army to the south but was discharged because of poor health. The father died in 1905 and the mother lives with the subject of this sketch. Nels G. received his schooling in the common schools of the county which he attended until he was eighteen years of age. He then continued to assist on the home farm and some months of each year worked out for neighbors. Since 1898 he has had entire charge of the farm. He owns 160 acres one-half of which is in section sixteen and the other in section seventeen. Mr. Nelson is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican and has been school clerk in district 180 for four years, town clerk one year and supervisor six years, still serving in the latter office. On April 7, 1898, he married Anna Hyland of Stewartville, Minn., born in Norway, April 7, 1874. To them have been born four children: Clarence, Alma, Elmer, who died at the age of three years, and Nora, who was born April 20, 1911. Mr. Nelson's comfortable home bespeaks his success as a farmer, and his standing in his community is an indication of his deserved place among his fellows.

J. George M. Rynning, the well known druggist of Ostrander, was born in Norway, December 21, 1863, son of Frederick Rynning. In 1879, he left the shores of his native country and sailed across the Atlantic, landing in New York, after which he started west and settled first in LaCrosse, Wis. In that city, he entered the employ of C. L. Lien, druggist, with whom he remained for several years. He passed the state board in Wisconsin in 1884, and then worked in various places until 1901, when he came to Minnesota and located in Ostrander, bought out C. A. Manning and assumed charge of the business in which he has met with so marked a degree of success. In 1895 he went to Preston

and for three years worked for Love and Hey, after which he was employed in Fountain for a short time, then returning to his store in Ostrander. Mr. Rynning votes with the Republican party, is a justice of the peace, and has been a director of the school board for three years. He belongs to the blue lodge, chapter and commandery of the Masons and also to the M. W. A. On March 31, 1895, he was married at Preston, to Kate J. Smith, a daughter of J. H. Smith, now deceased. Mrs. Rynning passed away in 1904.

**Edward Sween** was born in Norway, April 13, 1863, son of Ole and Mary Sween, who came to America in 1869, settled in Pilot Mound, this county, carried on general farming sixteen years and then moved to Bennington township, Mower county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1899 and the mother in 1908. Edward, the son, was educated in the common schools of this county and at the age of twenty years began farming on his own responsibility. Some time later he took up carpenter and mason work, which he followed for six years. In 1906 he came to Ostrander and entered general merchandise business, opening the "Edward Sween Store," which he has since successfully conducted. Mr. Sween began this business venture with a comparatively small stock of goods, but as trade has increased he has enlarged his supply of merchandise and now carries a full line, with which he meets the ever increasing demands of the public. He does an annual business of \$18,000 and his direct methods and square dealings have given him the confidence of the residents of the community. Mr. Sween adheres to the tenets endorsed by the Republicans, but has never sought office. He married Louise Christopherson on June 22, 1902, and they have become the parents of two children, Milo and Elmer. The family attend the Lutheran church and contribute to its support most liberally.

**Hans O. Larson**, banker, was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, March 10, 1859, son of Lars and Martha Gullickson. He spent his childhood days on the home farm, attended the common schools and later the Rochester Seminary. In the seventies he came to Minnesota and made his home in Bloomfield township. When twenty years of age he opened a general merchandise store at Hurdal. This first business venture proved successful and he remained in business till 1888. In the latter year he was elected register of deeds of Fillmore county and moved to Preston, where, being re-elected, he lived four years. In 1893, at the end of his county service, he moved to Ostrander and opened a store, which he conducted until 1897, when he sold out and engaged in farming in Bloomfield township. In 1903 he became

president of the newly organized State Bank of Ostrander. Later he became cashier. From its inception the bank has done a large business and is of great service to the people of Ostrander and the surrounding country. On May 27, 1883, Mr. Larson married Mary Noraggarten and to them have been born five children: Lelia M., Melvin C., Agnes M., Henrietta M. and Nora L. Mr. Larson and his family are members of the Lutheran church. In political views he is a Republican and though he has never been active in seeking office he was town clerk in Bloomfield for seven years, chairman one year and town treasurer six years, and has served several years on school boards and in minor offices aside from his four years as register of deeds.

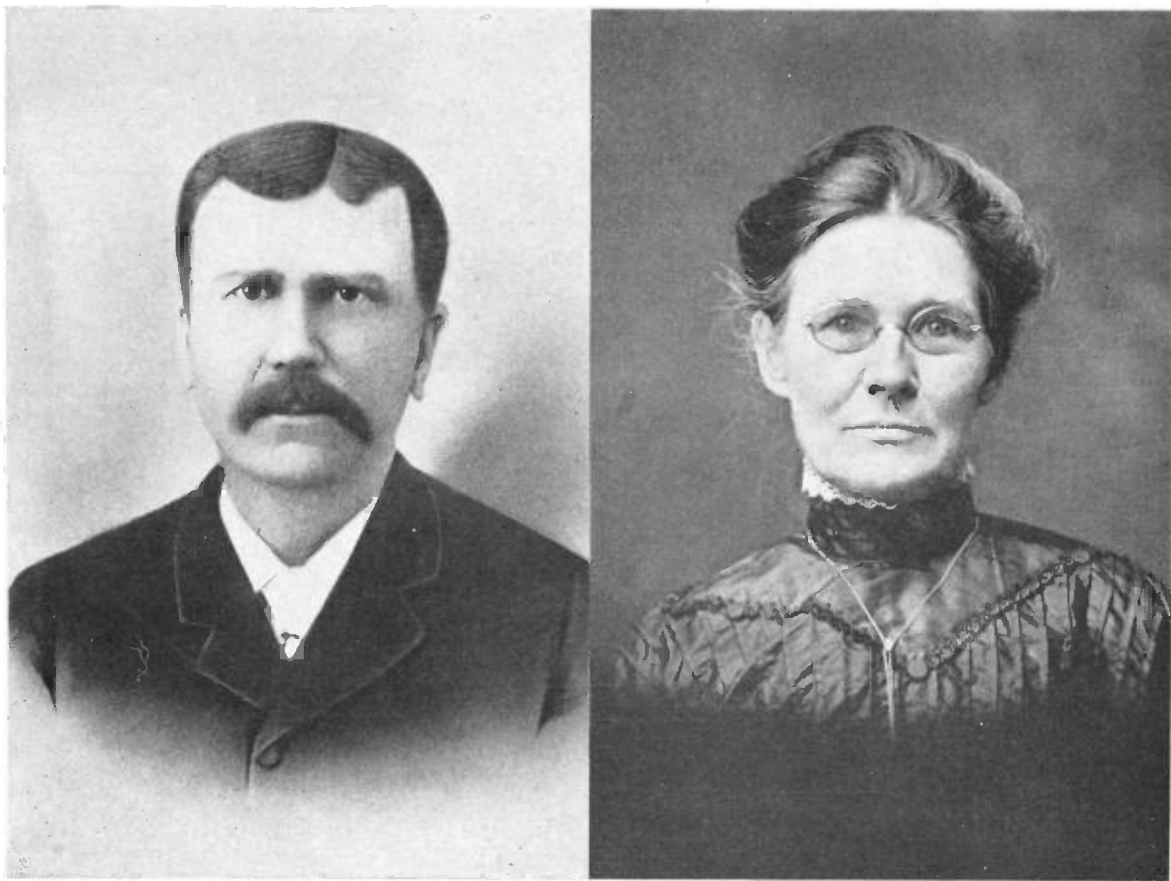
**William L. Maust**, well known blacksmith, who owns a shop in the village of Ostrander, was born in this county February 1, 1872, son of William and Eliza Maust. When a boy he attended the district school near home and assisted his father with the work on the farm. In 1894 he went to Preston, where he entered a blacksmith shop and spent three years, after which he went to Spring Valley and opened a shop on his own responsibility. He conducted the shop there for three years and then moved to his present place of business in Ostrander, where he bought out Jacobson & Olson, and has carried on a successful and increasing trade. Politically Mr. Maust is a Socialist and he has never been a seeker of public office. Being of a fraternal disposition, he has affiliated with the Modern Woodmen. In February, 1901, he was married to Lena Heimsness, of Bloomfield.

**Hans L. Hanson**, who at present is conducting a prosperous implement and machinery business in the village of Ostrander, first saw the light of day on December 16, 1856, son of Andrew H. and Mary Hanson, who came from Norway in 1857, bringing with them the subject of this sketch. He grew to manhood on his father's farm in Bloomfield township and attended the country school near his home. In 1888 he started in life for himself, entered into partnership with L. E. Lundby in a general store in Hurdal, and continued in this capacity until 1893, when the firm was discontinued and dissolved. Mr. Hanson took a position as clerk for H. O. Larson, who had purchased the store. For three years he worked as clerk and then went west to Benton county for six months. Subsequently, after a short time at home, he went to Becker county and remained something more than a year, after which he came back to Fillmore county. In 1900 he and his brother, Otto, bought out the Swenson & Halling implement and machinery business in Ostrander, which they have since conducted. Aside from the store, which occupies the old bank

building in Ostrander, Mr. Hanson owns a large warehouse near the Great Western yards, also one next door to the main store. He carries on a large and flourishing trade, which is steadily increasing, and his direct business methods and integrity have won the confidence of the community. Politically he is a member of the Republican party, though not an office seeker. He attends the Lutheran church and is recognized as one of its highly respected members.

**Andrew H. Hanson**, now deceased, was a native of Norway, where he spent the early years of his life, was educated and married. In 1857 he came to America with his wife and family, making the trip in a sailboat, and landing at Quebec. Soon after he came to Minnesota, took a claim in section thirty-three, Bloomfield township, erected a log house, broke the wild land, planted crops and began to farm. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Hanson enlisted and fought for his adopted country until the end of the struggle, being with Sherman in the famous march to the sea. After the close of the war he returned to his farm in section thirty-three, Bloomfield, and lived there until 1876, when he purchased one two miles north, in sections twenty-one and twenty-eight, in the same township. There he passed away in 1898. His widow now resides with their sons, Hans L. and Otto, who were conducting a store in Ostrander. Mr. Hanson was a hard working and energetic man, respected by all with whom he had business dealings, and esteemed for many admirable qualities.

**Josiah T. Elliott**, a prosperous farmer of the township of Harmony, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, June 13, 1849, son of Thomas and Berthanna (Converse) Elliott, who brought him to section 28, Harmony township, in 1861. He was reared on the home farm and went through the same routine that usually falls to the lot of a farm boy in a pioneer country. His schooling, which had been started in St. Lawrence county, was finished in district forty-four, Harmony. On October 29, 1889 he married Kate Kennedy, daughter of Moses and Bridget (Kelly) Kennedy, who settled in section thirty-two, Harmony township, in 1869, the former dying in 1884 and the latter in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott are the parents of six children: Anna B., Addie E., Josiah F. (deceased) Lana G., Glenn J. and Unice M. Mr. Elliott's farm comprises 240 acres, all under cultivation, except ten acres. His comfortable home is pleasantly located and was built in 1894. Mr. Elliott raises Shorthorn cattle and takes great pride in his horses, breeding the Normans for draft purposes, and some very fine Hamiltonians for driving.



MR. AND MRS. KNUTE KNUTSEN

In 1907 he moved to the village of Harmony, where the family lived until August 12, 1911, when they returned to the farm, where they now reside. The subject of this sketch was supervisor of the township for three years and served on the school board of district forty-four for a considerable period. He is a member of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M.

**Thomas Elliott**, now deceased, for many years a resident of Harmony township, was born in Vermont and lived for a time in St. Lawrence county, New York. In 1861 he and his wife, Berthanna (Converse) Elliott, with their three children, came to Harmony township and settled in section twenty-eight. The farm he purchased had but a few acres broken, and for buildings had only a small log house. He broke the land, cultivated the farm, and raised his family, continuing to work the farm until a short time before his death, January 29, 1887. His wife died June 7, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elliott were parents of three children: Josiah T., of Harmony township; Addie R., now Mrs. W. D. Craig, of Frankford, S. D.; Charles M., of Milwaukee, Wis., a railroad man.

**Knute Knutsen**, now deceased, was a prominent farmer in Harmony township up to the time of his death in 1903, and in dying left a host of friends and the refreshing memory of a useful and wholesome life. He was born in Norway in 1851 and came with his parents to America in 1853. They first settled in Wisconsin and finally came to Harmony and located in section twenty-three. Here Knute was reared. After a time he took up farming for himself and made a specialty of breeding horses. He married Ellen J. Erickson, who was born January 24, 1862, daughter of Ole and Randa (Helgeson) Erickson, her father being one of the pioneers of Harmony, who died about thirty years ago. To Mr. and Mrs. Knutsen were born two children: Herman, born September 6, 1893, and Rebecca, born March 24, 1898, both at home. The home farm consists of 150 acres, a part of which Mrs. Knutsen rents.

**Burton D. Farrington**, a well known citizen of Fillmore and owner of the general store in that village, was born in Jordan township March 3, 1871, son of G. M. and Hannah (Tyson) Farrington. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, entered the graded schools and graduated from the Chatfield high school in 1889. After completing his education Mr. Farrington taught for several winter terms in the country and then purchased eighty acres in section thirty-six, where he engaged in farming until 1899. During this year he

sold his farm and bought the general store in Fillmore, which his father and uncle had owned for ten years. This place of business he has since conducted most successfully, running a delivery wagon and enjoying a large trade in village and country. In political views he is a Prohibitionist and has held several responsible offices in the village and township, having been postmaster of Fillmore until that office was discontinued, and for five years town treasurer. In June, 1896, he married Lucy Carson, a native of Jordan. To them two children were born. The first died in infancy, and Roger, born October 28, 1898, is now in school. Mrs. Lucy Carson Farrington died in 1899. On May 5, 1903, Mr. Farrington married Lillian Webber, of Fillmore, daughter of M. W. Webber, now deceased. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and are esteemed members of that denomination. Mr. Farrington owns a farm of 155 acres in sections five and six, Fillmore township, and is a stockholder in the Exchange State Bank of Wykoff. He also deals in and negotiates loans on western lands and is interested in land at Billings, Mont.

**Grove Marcelus Farrington**, deceased, was born in Herkimer county, New York, May 19, 1845. Until eight years of age he lived in New York, after which he went with his parents to Baraboo, Wis., and there lived until 1859. During that year he came to Minnesota and located in Jordan township, where he worked for his father on the farm. He acquired his education in the common schools of Wisconsin and Minnesota. After working for many years at farming, Mr. Farrington bought a store in Fillmore, which had formerly been the property of M. Eggleston and later of Robbin Brothers. This store he operated until the time of his death, which occurred August 28, 1900. Politically he was a Republican. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and affiliated with the A. O. U. W. On March 1, 1866, he married Hannah Tyson, who was born in Jay county, Indiana, April 11, 1846, and came to Minnesota with her father in 1855, locating in Fillmore township, where she grew to womanhood. To Mr. and Mrs. Farrington the following children were born: Charles A., of Canyon City, Colo.; Burton D., merchant at Fillmore; Clarence H., merchant in Spring Valley; Ralph M., a lawyer of Reubens, Idaho, and Mildred L., of Fillmore.

**A. H. Peterson (Helgeland)**, a progressive farmer of Harmony township, was born in Stavanger, Hjelmelands, Sogn, Ombo, Norway, November 13, 1844, and came to the United States via Quebec, Canada, in 1861. From Grundy county, Illinois, he went to La Salle county, Illinois, and there worked out until 1866,





A. H. PETERSON (HELGELAND) AND FAMILY

when he came to Harmony overland by team and settled in section twenty-one. Here he bought a farm of eighty acres from Charles Anderson. The place at that time contained only a log building. After a few years Mr. Peterson replaced this with a frame dwelling, in the rear of which he erected large outbuildings for the housing of his stock, farm produce and agricultural implements. The farm consists of 120 acres, under a high degree of cultivation. Mr. Peterson is now practically retired from active life and his sons look after the farm work for him. He married for his first wife, August 3, 1866, Tone Harstad, by whom he had seven children: Peter the first (died February 15, 1878), Sarah, Trena, Bell, Lena, Peter the second and Annie. Sarah married C. W. Kittelson, now deceased. Trena is the wife of O. K. Hanson. Bell is the wife of M. L. Gordon. Lena is the wife of Andrew Nelson. Mrs. Tone Peterson died September 2, 1883. For his second wife Mr. Peterson married Betsy Johnson, on December 11, 1888. She died August 5, 1898. This union was blessed with five children, of whom Linda, Nora and Clarence are living. James L. died March 27, 1890, and Truman G. died March 21, 1898. The family is well thought of in the community. Mr. Peterson is a Republican and the family church is the Lutheran. He served as town treasurer one year, as town assessor for one year, and has been school clerk for the past thirty years. He spent the summer of 1882 in North Dakota. The son Peter now works the home farm.

**August H. Fligge**, for ten years treasurer of Forestville, also clerk and treasurer of school district 170, in that township, for a period of fifteen years, is a native of this county though of German extraction. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fligge were born and reared in Germany where they married. In 1855 they came to America and to this county, locating on section four, Forestville. They were the parents of six children, all living: Frank G., born in 1857; William Luther, born June 5, 1860; August H., born February 23, 1862; Clara Henrietta, born in November, 1870, now Mrs. Albert Schroeder of Fillmore township; Fred H., of Lyons county, Minnesota, and Amelia, wife of Charles Schafer, of Wykoff. The mother died in 1864, and the father on July 8, 1883, his death being caused by a kick from a horse. August, the subject of this biography, attended the common schools of the township and worked on the home farm for his father until the latter's death. Mr. Fligge then bought out the other heirs and now owns 200 acres of valuable land, section four, Forestville. For twenty-six years he carried on agricultural industries here and raised stock, but during 1908 he disposed of all his personal property though retaining ownership of the land.

Moving into Wykoff, Mr. Fligge bought a livery barn, which he operated for one year and then disposed of. He is now engaged in horse dealing, and is successful in this occupation. As a member of the Republican party, he adheres to its principles and in recognition of his executive ability he has been elected to the offices before mentioned, in which capacities he served with general satisfaction. On September 12, 1887, Sophia, daughter of Dedreich Graskamp became the wife of Mr. Fligge and to this union have been born, Walter D., a grocer in Wykoff; Lucinda and Frieda, students, living at home. The family attends the Lutheran church and contributes to its support. Mr. Fligge is a stockholder in the Spring Valley Creamery. He is now justice of peace at Wykoff.

**P. B. Winslow**, deceased, for many years a highly respected resident of Fountain township, was born in Catteraugus county, New York, March 4, 1842, son of Hosmer and Cornella (Winslow) Winslow, whose marriage took place June 11, 1834. The father was an extensive owner of large timber tracts in Cattaraugus county and for many years operated a sawmill. He subsequently disposed of his mill and timber land, purchased some property on which was a quarry and there began the manufacture of grindstones, which business he followed until 1851. He then disposed of his interests and went to Stephenson county, Illinois, where he remained for three years, after which he brought his family to this county and settled in section five, Fountain township. Here he built a log house and broke and cultivated the land, enduring many hardships incident to the lives of the pioneers in this county. His log house was replaced by a frame dwelling in 1865 and here he passed the rest of his life and died October 13, 1877. P. B., the subject of this biography, attended school in district seventy-five and worked for his father. He married Lizzie F. Sears, born October 26, 1846, at Fenner, Madison county, N. Y., a daughter of Barmas C. and Louisa (Fay) Sears, and to this marriage two children have been born, Sears H. and Fay B. Sears H. married Lena Foglesong and they are the parents of Leslie, Amy A. and Gordon Fay. P. B. Winslow enlisted in Company B, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, in 1861, and first served in the Indian outbreak. Then the regiment was sent South and defended the Union in many battles. He was honorably discharged in 1865 at the close of the war and returned to his home in Minnesota and resumed his farming operations. His death occurred December 26, 1898, and was greatly mourned by his widow and children as well as by a large number of friends and acquaintances. Mrs. Winslow still retains the home farm and is an extensive traveler and well informed in literary



LEWIS C. MONROE AND FAMILY

pursuits. Mr. Winslow was a member of Chatfield Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and of the G. A. R. Post at Chatfield. Mr. and Mrs. Sears, parents of Mrs. P. B. Winslow, came to Wisconsin in the early fifties and five years later to Illinois and engaged at farming. In their declining years they moved to Rockford, Ill., where the mother died November 21, 1881, and the father passed away October 13, 1893, on the farm with his son.

**John M. Monroe**, now deceased, will ever be remembered in connection with the early history of Newburg township. Born in Courtland county, New York, November 29, 1811, he was early thrown on his own resources by the death of his father. The mother, thus left with six children, eked out a scanty income with the assistance of her daughters, by weaving, and John helped with the family income by going to work for farmers at the age of twelve. At the age of eighteen years he moved with his stepfather and his mother to Cattaraugus county, New York, and while there married Roxy Willis, July 28, 1833. The young couple then went to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, but after five years returned to Cattaraugus county, New York. In the fall of 1849 they came to Rockford, Ill., and lived there until June 3, 1852, when with a span of horses and two yoke of oxen, the family set out for Minnesota. They crossed the Mississippi at Dubuque and after one month of hard travel and exposure reached Newburg township and staked out a claim in section 26, where the family has since lived. Mr. Monroe was one of the organizers of his town and of his school district, served in several town offices and was postmaster at Bellville for twelve years. He died January 11, 1894, and his wife died April 20, 1893. To them were born eight children. The four living are Jane, wife of Dwight Rathbun, of Spring Valley; Levi, of California; Lewis C., of Newburg, and George E., of Los Angeles. One of the children, Mary Lucinda, who first saw the light of day December 24, 1852, is said to have been the first white child born in Fillmore county. She, as well as Catherine, Elvira and Sarah, are now dead.

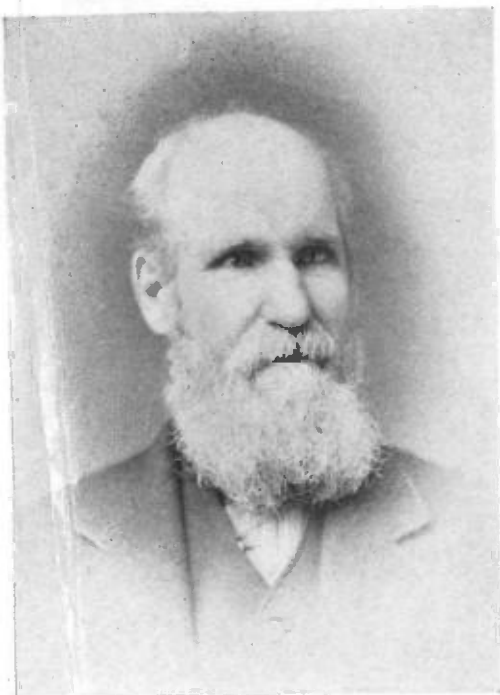
**Lewis C. Monroe**, a successful farmer of Newburg township, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, April 15, 1849, son of John M. and Roxy (Willis) Monroe, the pioneers. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and has devoted all his life to farming. He was married July 4, 1875, to Jane M. Cater, daughter of Charles Cater, a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, and Mary (Potton) Cater, his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe have four children: Roxy M., John, Rena and Ruby. Roxy M. married Herbert Williams and they have two

children, Lloyd and Marjorie. They live at Oakwood, Okla. John married Anna Thundale, and they have two daughters, Beatrice M. and Vivian. They reside at Hellenger, N. D. Rena and Ruby are at home. Mr. Monroe now owns and conducts the old home farm of 178 acres in section twenty-six, Newburg township, and has greatly improved the land and buildings.

**Robert J. Love** was born in Illinois, June 10, 1855, son of Robert and Agnes Love, who came to Minnesota in 1856 and settled in York township, on section fourteen. Robert J. received his early education in the common schools, later in the Spring Valley high school and afterward in the Winona Normal school. Having completed his work in the latter institution, he taught school for fifteen years. His first school was one of seventy pupils, which he taught for \$29 per month. He taught fifty months in the Liberty school. Though many years a teacher he has been a farmer all his life. He and his brother William now own about 800 acres in sections fourteen and fifteen in York township and a quarter section in Bristol. They do considerable stock raising, averaging from eighty to one hundred head of grade Durhams, annually raise from one hundred to one hundred and fifty hogs and keep eight horses for farm work and driving. Mr. Love is a member of the Presbyterian church. In political activities he adheres to the principles of the Republican party. He has been town chairman two years. In the autumn of 1904 he went to Scotland, and there on September 30, in the city of Glasgow, he was married to Jeannie Shanks, a native of that country. To this union have been born two children, Robert and Agnes.

**William C. Love** was born in McHenry county, Illinois, on March 16, 1853, and came with his parents to York township in 1856. Since that time this locality has been his home. He received his education in the common schools and has worked on the farm from boyhood to the present time. In company with his brother, R. J., he is an extensive land holder in York and Bristol townships, where they find it impossible to use all their land themselves. A large portion of it is rented to neighbors and regular tenants. He is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is a Republican, and was county commissioner from 1896 to 1902.

**Horace Greeley Henderson**, leading citizen and farmer, is rearing his family on the same farm in York township where he was born, August 18, 1860, son of Ira and Sarah P. (Ingalls) Henderson. He received his education in the common schools and later at Spring Valley. After completing his studies he returned to



MR. AND MRS. IRA HENDERSON



HORACE GREELEY HENDERSON AND FAMILY

the farm and assisted his father until 1884. In the latter year he went to Ness county, Kansas, and took a homestead, which he later disposed of and bought land in Illinois. After an absence of more than five years he returned to York and now has a most excellently equipped farm of 400 acres in sections four and nine. Here he conducts extensive farming operations and has a fine herd of fifty head of Shorthorn cattle, which he raises entirely for beef. He also keeps a good drove of Shropshire sheep. Mr. Henderson has a large and comfortable dwelling, erected near the older home which is still standing. The numerous buildings and the general equipment give the atmosphere of a western ranch. Mr. Henderson is a member of the Prohibition party, and for nearly twenty years has been treasurer of school district No. 89. He is a member of the Evangelical church of Cherry Grove. On September 4, 1890, he married Agnes McDonald, formerly of Illinois. To this union were born eight children. Norman, Irene and Gladys are students at the Spring Valley high school. George, Jessie, Nina, Ethel and Ida are at home.

Ole Jorgenson was born in Norway, where he grew to manhood, attended school and was married. Soon after his marriage he came to America, and with his wife made a home in Wisconsin for several years. He later removed to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore township, where he pre-empted a claim of 160 acres, erected a log house, developed the land and followed farming industries for the remainder of his years. For fifteen years Mr. Jorgenson and his family resided in the humble log house which was subsequently replaced by a modern frame structure, both comfortable and commodious. Mr. Jorgenson grew more prosperous as the years passed and added to his original possessions until he became the owner of 360 acres, which were all under careful cultivation. To himself and wife were born five children: George a farmer in York; Thomas, Belle, Gunder and Isabella. Mr. Jorgenson passed away in June, 1906, and his death was a loss to the entire community. For many years he was active in church work and always stood ready to give any assistance required. The wife and mother is still living in York.

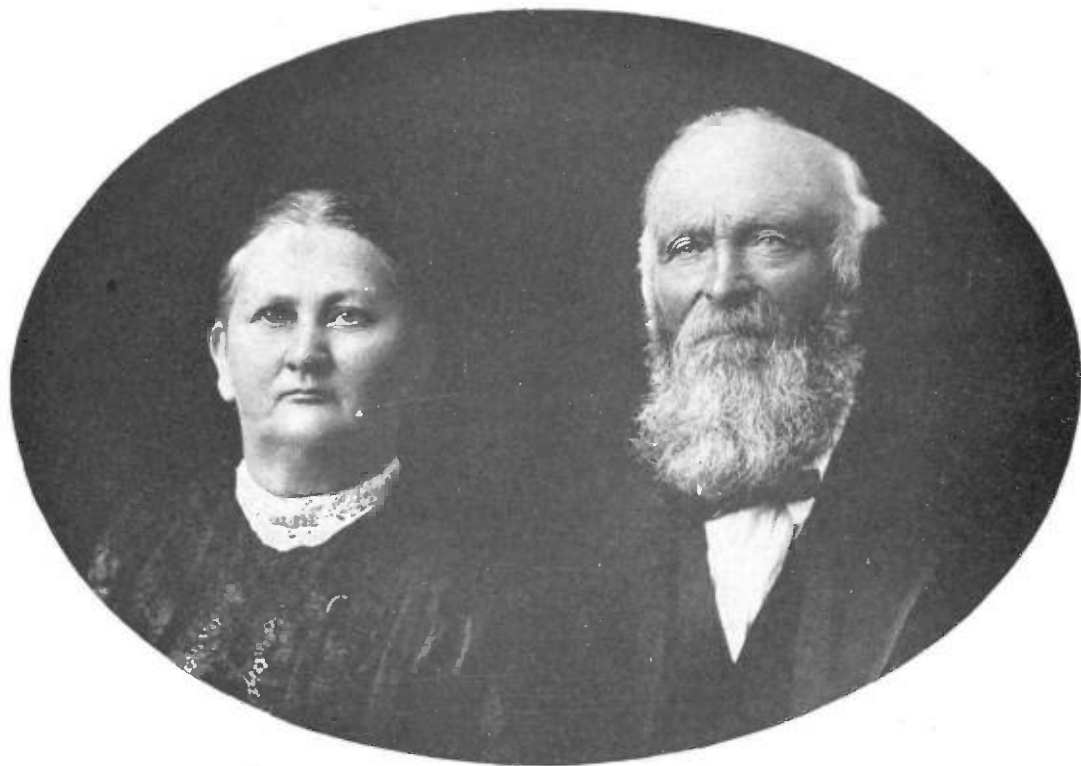
Ira Henderson, now deceased, was born in Erie county, New York, March 23, 1831, where he attended school and grew to manhood. He engaged in the lumbering business and farming in New York, and in 1852 went to Columbia county, Wisconsin. He remained only a short time in Wisconsin and came to Minnesota and settled in Washington county, taking up land near the St. Croix. In 1854 he sold his business there, and after a short stay in New York he came to Fillmore county and located on



section four in York township. When the Indian outrages occurred in 1862 he enlisted and went with the troops to suppress the uprising. In August, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served till the close of the Civil War. After the war he returned to York, where he had pre-empted 160 acres of land and soon purchased 160 acres more. On his first arrival here he put up a small claim shanty, but in 1861 this was replaced by a substantial frame dwelling. Mr. Henderson was a man of rugged character and was held in high respect by his acquaintances. In politics he was a Republican, and was for many years assessor and justice of the peace. He was married June 6, 1857, to Sarah P. Ingalls, and to them were born three children, David I., Horace Greeley and Lydia Grace. The oldest and youngest died of diphtheria in December, 1868, and January, 1869. Ira Henderson died September 25, 1903, and his wife survived him less than five years, dying June 25, 1908.

George Jorgenson, a representative farmer now carrying on agricultural pursuits in York township, was born in this county September 11, 1858, son of Ole and Sarah Jorgenson. The early years of his life were spent in attending school and assisting his father with the farm work. At the age of sixteen he left school and was employed by his father until the latter's death. Mr. Jorgenson now owns 400 acres of land located in sections twenty-six and twenty-seven, and his farm is well equipped with modern machinery and good buildings. He engages in general farming and dairying and keeps from fifty to sixty head of Black Polled and Aberdeen Angus cattle for dairy purposes. He disposes of his milk and cream to the Chester Creamery and owns stock in that organization. Mr. Jorgenson also raises many hogs, and at present has about thirty. He keeps several horses for general farm work, and is recognized as a successful farmer. Mr. Jorgenson is a stockholder in the Lime Springs and York Telephone Company and is interested in all movements which tend toward the improvement of his community. He attends the Lutheran church and is respected as one of its loyal members. In the spring of 1912 he was a member of the grand jury at Preston.

Ole K. Olson was born in York township, March 2, 1857, son of Knud and Julia (Owens) Olson. When a boy he attended the district school and worked on the home farm. Completing his education when twenty years of age, the subject of this sketch gave all his time and attention to farming, remaining in the employ of his father until twenty-five years old. He then purchased thirty acres in section twenty-six, and ten years later pur-



MR. AND MRS. K. O. HOVEY

chased his father's farm, which was located in section fourteen, York township. Here Mr. Olson has since made his home. He has a fine dwelling house, good barns and outbuildings, and his farm is well equipped with modern machinery for the carrying on of its work. Mr. Olson now owns 400 acres in this county, some of which are located in sections fourteen, twenty-four and twenty-six, York, while some are in section nineteen, Bloomfield. He engages in general farming and stockraising, keeping Short-horn cattle for dairy purposes, and raising Chester White hogs, for which he finds ready market. He disposes of his dairy products to the Chester Creamery, of which he is a stockholder. Mr. Olson keeps nine horses of a good breed, for general farm work and driving purposes. He supports the tenets of the Republican party and has served as school treasurer in district 88 for the past two years. He attends the Lutheran church and has been one of its officers. On August 1, 1883, Mr. Olson married Eunice Ellingson, of York, and they are the parents of seven children: Gertrude, now Mrs. John Jones, of this township; Knute, also married and living in York; John, Anna, Bergat, Eddie and Albert at home.

**Knud Olson**, deceased, was one of the first settlers in this county and the first in York township. Born in Norway on February 28, 1826, he there passed the early years of his life, attended school, worked at farming and later married Julia Owens. One year after his marriage, which occurred in 1848, the subject of this biography arrived in America and came west to Wisconsin, where he settled on a farm in Watertown, on which he remained for a year, after which he and his family moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa. In August, 1854, Mr. Olson came to this county and homesteaded land in section twenty-five, where he erected a house, broke the soil and engaged in farming industries. Five years later, in 1859, he went to California, where he engaged in mining until 1863, then returning to his farm in this county. In 1866 Mr. Olson disposed of his original claim and bought a farm in section fourteen, where he built a substantial and commodious house, good outbuildings and made many other improvements. Here he passed the remainder of his life and became one of the highly esteemed residents of the township of York. To himself and wife four children were born, Betsy, Julia, Tilda and Ole K. Mr. Olson and his wife passed away in 1903.

**K. O. Hovey** was born in Norway on November 12, 1844, son of Ole Olson and Julia Gulbrandson Olson. The subject of this sketch arrived in the United States in 1865 and came west to Decorah, Iowa, where he worked for three years. In 1868 he came

to York township and settled on section twenty-seven, where he bought eighty acres and resided for twenty years. His present home is in section twenty-three. He has purchased land from time to time until at present he owns 410 acres located in sections 23, 27 and 35, in York township, where he carries on diversified farming and stock raising, owning about 100 head of Shorthorn cattle, which he markets for beef, and about 125 hogs of the Duroc Jersey breed. In political views Mr. Hovey is a progressive Republican and he has been elected to the office of school treasurer of district 88 for many years. He is a member of the Lutheran church, was secretary for many years, and at the present time is one of its chief officials. Mr. Hovey married Julia Olson, of York, November 16, 1869, and they are the parents of thirteen children: Gene died in infancy; Julia died when twelve years of age; Ole married Tina Johnson; Hattie is the wife of Henry Applen, of York; Emma married O. Halverson, of Dodge county; Bertha married Ole Austin, of York; Carrie is now Mrs. Knute Toslensen, of Yellow Medicine, Minn.; Knute married Carrie Gilberts and is a farmer in York; Gilbert died in 1908; Julia and Albert are at home and Oscar is attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Hovey are the proud grandparents of thirty-nine grandchildren, for two of whom they make a home.

Knute O. Wilson, deceased, will long be remembered by the residents of York township, and his name be honored as one of the pioneers who assisted in the development and progress of civilization in the county. He was of Norwegian birth and ancestry and grew to manhood in his native country, there receiving his education and preparing himself for a life of usefulness. He married Sarah Johnson and brought her with him to this country, settling first in Wisconsin, where he was employed for a few years, after which they came to this county in 1856, settled on section twenty-eight, York township, and pre-empted eighty acres, on which he built a log house, ten by twelve feet, where he and his family resided for twelve years. Later he erected a frame dwelling in which he passed the remainder of his life. He was a Republican and held many public offices, among which were town clerk for eight years, member of the school board in district 175, and minor positions. For twenty years Mr. Wilson was a deacon in the Lutheran church. To himself and wife a family of twelve children were born. Ole is deceased; Annie is now Mrs. Will Englebreit, of Carimona; Jennie, now Mrs. Ole Lawrence, and Emma, deceased, were twins; Emma, second, married Even Thostensen; Ole is a farmer in York; Ella is the wife of William Doherty; John lives in Montana; Julia is now Mrs. Andrew Thostensen; George is in Montana; Anna married Herman Lundby

and Erma is deceased. The wife and mother entered into rest August 14, 1906, and Mr. Wilson's death occurred September 28, 1907.

**Ole Wilson** was born August 8, 1872, son of Knute and Sarah Wilson. His education was acquired in the common schools of York, where he passed the years of his boyhood. When he reached the age of nineteen he discontinued his studies and devoted his time and energy to working for his father on the farm. In 1898 he started for himself by purchasing land in section twenty-eight, where he engages in diversified farming and dairying, disposing of his dairy products to the Chester Creamery. In November, 1899, Mr. Wilson married Celia Selland, of York township, and they are the parents of four children, Knute, Helen, Henry and Sarah. Mr. Wilson attends the Lutheran church and votes the Republican ticket, but he has never sought public office.

**Osmund Olson Trydal** was born in Norway, where he attended school and prepared himself for a useful life. He married in his native land and brought his wife to America in 1854. The voyage was made in a sail boat and they landed at Quebec after a long and tedious trip. Coming to the States, Mr. Trydal and his wife settled in Wisconsin, making their home at Rock River. Two years later they came to Minnesota and homesteaded a claim in sections fifteen and sixteen, York. This claim comprises eighty acres, and in addition Mr. Trydal bought another eighty, all of which was wild land. Here he built a house of logs, where the family lived until 1870, when he erected a larger and more comfortable log house where he spent the rest of his life. He was an industrious man, possessed of energy and good sense and he overcame difficulties and established his home in the midst of obstacles which did not discourage him. His honorable and useful life terminated in 1871 and his widow passed away some years later—in 1908. They had three sons and three daughters. Mr. Trydal was a valiant veteran of the Civil War, having served three years in that conflict.

**Joel O. Trydal**, who has been prominently associated with many of the responsible public offices in York township, was born here on August 16, 1858, son of Osmund and Isabelle Olson Trydal, natives of Norway. The early years of his life were passed in school, but as soon as he became able to assist his father on the farm his schooling had to cease. He was an energetic lad and that energy has remained as one of his leading characteristics through the years of his life. He worked on the home farm until twenty-one years of age and then went to Mayville, N. D., where

he was employed for two years, after which he came back to the old homestead and assumed charge. Some time later he went to Norway, where he spent a year and visited the old home of his parents. Returning to America, he bought eighty acres of the home farm, and for ten years resided there, after which he disposed of it and purchased eighty acres in section twenty-eight, in the same township. On this farm Mr. Trydal has made all improvements and as opportunity has afforded he has added to his original possessions, now owning 120 acres in all. He engages in general farming and dairying and keeps Shorthorn and Black Polled cattle, disposing of dairy products to the Chester Creamery. Mr. Trydal rents out most of his land, as his health will not permit of arduous labors. He is an independent voter and has been elected to serve as clerk of school district 88 for six years, town clerk for three years and path master for two years. He is secretary of the Lutheran church and a member of that denomination. He has also been appointed guardian and administrator. On May 7, 1885, the subject of this sketch married Nellie Arneson, and to them have been born ten children: Lena, Alice, Ole (deceased), Juno, Bertha, Emma, Osmund (deceased), Osmund, Linda and Mildred. Mr. Trydal is a stockholder in the York Telephone Company and the central office is located in his home.

**Anthony Ibach**, for many years a Preston business man, was born in Baden-Baden, Germany, July 15, 1833. He came to America in 1850 and worked two years on a farm near Buffalo, N. Y. He afterward lived in Dubuque, Iowa, and in 1856 came to this county and engaged in the stone masons' trade in Carimona. April 12, 1858, he married Theresa Lomen. In 1859 Mr. Ibach engaged in the refreshment business in Preston and thus continued for many years. His wife died November 24, 1879, and on August 10, 1881, he married Hannah Bolman.

**Hans Borgen** was born at Telamarken, Norway, January 21, 1848, spent the early years of his life in his native land, received his education from a religious instructor, and when twenty-two years of age decided to seek his fortune in America. Accordingly he embarked in a sailing vessel, and after a long voyage, landed at Quebec, after which he came to Minnesota, and for five years worked for various farmers. In 1875 he bought a farm in Beaver township, which he eventually lost on a mortgage, due to the great wheat failure. After this he started again, rented land in York and carried on agricultural operations until 1891. During this year he bought eighty acres in section thirty-three, York, where he erected a comfortable dwelling and good barns and made other improvements. For several years Mr. Borgen

engaged in general farming, together with stock raising and dairying, disposing of his dairy products to the Chester Creamery, in which he is a stockholder. He raised Chester White hogs for market and good horses for farm and driving purposes. In 1911 Mr. Borgen met with an accident which resulted in a broken hip, and he was then obliged to abandon arduous toil. He now rents his farm to his son and lives a practically retired life. He has long been a loyal Republican, but not a seeker after public offices. On December 20, 1875, Julia Thorsen, daughter of John Thorsen, of York, became his wife, and they have had seven children, of whom five are now living. Mr. Borgen is a member of the Lutheran church and supervisor in that organization.

**Frank J. Ibach**, a hustling young newspaper man of Preston, was born August 18, 1873, in Preston, son of Anthony Ibach. He attended the Preston high school until seventeen years of age, and then started learning the printers' trade. After twelve years' service in the office of the Preston Times he purchased the National Republican, changed its politics from Populist to Republican, and has since been its editor and manager. He is deputy oil inspector for Fillmore county, and his services as secretary of the Fillmore County Agricultural Society, with which he has been actively connected since 1904, have been highly valued.

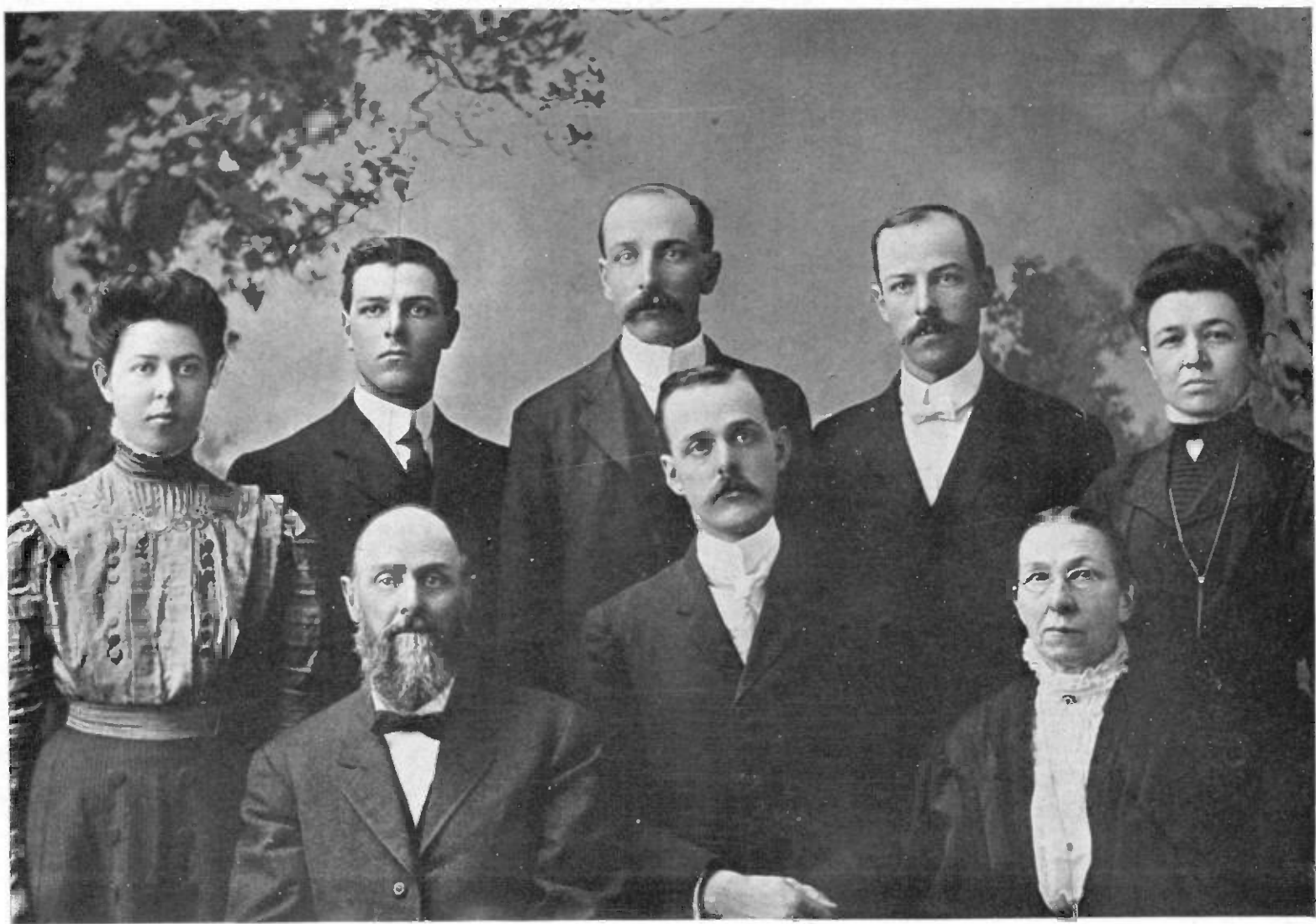
**L. O. Haugen**, prominent citizen and editor, residing in Harmony, was born in Minneola township, Goodhue county, May 25, 1872. He attended the common schools and graduated from the Red Wing Seminary in 1891. He spent ten years in the general merchandise business at Zumbrota, and came to Harmony in 1899. The Harmony News, under his management has become a prominent and influential paper and has been a most successful venture. Mr. Haugen was married in 1895 to Anna Sigmond and they have two sons.

**O. P. Hadland**, farmer, business man and man of affairs, is a fine example of Fillmore county manhood. Born in a family that was prominent in the settlement of the county, he has ever had the best interests of the community at heart, and has had an important part in the upbuilding of this vicinity. He first saw the light of day on the site of his present home in Bloomfield township February 19, 1858, son of Peter (Olson) Hadland, native of Norway. The father came to this county in 1852, after being two years in Wisconsin, settled on 160 acres in section twenty-eight, Bloomfield, and has lived in Fillmore county since that time. The mother died April 10, 1911, nearly ninety-three years old. O. P. Hadland received his education in the common schools

of the township in which he was born and attended Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, where he completed his education. He taught school one year in Otter Tail county and one year in this township, since which time he has engaged in farming. He now owns an excellent place of 340 acres in sections twenty-eight, twenty-one and twenty-two, in Bloomfield, tills all this land himself, has a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle and does an extensive dairy business, selling his cream at the Ostrander Creamery, which he assisted in organizing, and of which he has been the only president. A well-kept orchard with a variety of apples is one of Mr. Hadland's many interests. His pleasant and roomy home was recently improved with a large addition, and this, with sufficient buildings for the proper housing of his excellent farm equipment, large crops and sleek live stock all count together to make the Hadland farm one of the most prosperous of the county. Mr. Hadland is a member of the Lutheran church of Bloomfield and has for many years been secretary of the congregation. In politics he is independent and has been a leader in local political circles since old enough to be interested. He has been either town clerk, town assessor or town chairman for the past twenty years, serving in the latter office at present. He has been clerk of district 180 for fifteen years and is a member of the Putnam school board of Spring Valley, in which he has taken a deep interest. In 1891 he represented his county in the legislature. Mr. Hadland has long been an ardent supporter of all movements which sought a closer and better relation between the farmer and the world of consumers. He is president of the Farmers' elevator of Ostrander, president of the First State Bank of Ostrander and stockholder and director in the Farmers' Store at Spring Valley. In July, 1883, he married Margaret Miland, of Mower county, and to them have been born seven children, all of whom are at home: Selma, Thorwald, Nettie, Julia, Henry, Bernhard and Melvin.

Joseph P. Donahue was born in Oneida township, Olmsted county, Minnesota, September 12, 1872, son of Hugh and Ellen (Hart) Donahue, natives of Ireland, the former of whom came to America at the age of twenty-one years, located in Wisconsin, was there married, came to Minnesota in the sixties and followed farming in Olmsted county until 1891, when he retired and moved to Chatfield, where he died August 29, 1896, his widow dying February 3, 1911. Joseph P. received a district and high school education and took a business course at Winona. Thus prepared for a successful business career he began work in a jewelry store in Chatfield, being later employed by J. P. Williams, in the same town. In 1894 he entered into partnership with A. J. Waters





H. E. KING AND FAMILY

in the farm implement business, the firm being known as Waters & Donahue. Two years later he disposed of his interest and secured employment in the Williams furniture store. September 20, 1897, he became a partner in this concern and continued as such until January 1, 1908. He was manager of the Donahue Drug Company from 1900 until 1909, when the store was sold, and he came to Preston, where he conducted the undertaking parlors and was manager of the Jennings & Donahue monumental works. He is a graduate of the Champion School of Embalming of Springfield, O., and a member of the Minnesota Funeral Directors' Association. Mr. Donahue was assistant demonstrator and instructor in the Wisconsin Association school which was held in Fond du Lac from July 18 to August 1, 1910. He is a member of the Catholic church and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Beavers and Knights of Pythias. When a resident of Chatfield Mr. Donahue was elected to the office of justice of the peace for nine successive years and served as town clerk for one year. He is deeply interested in all movements toward the progress of his town and county and lends support to all public enterprises. August 18, 1911, he sold his undertaking establishment to George F. Harrington and entered the Johnson College of Embalming of St. Paul as secretary and treasurer and lecturer and demonstrator of practical embalming, which position he still holds.

**Henry Edwin King** was born in Clayton county, Iowa, February 12, 1848, son of John E. and Eleanor (Harland) King, both natives of England, who brought him to Sumner in 1854. He was educated in the common schools of this county and learned his lessons in the log school house where the seats were slab benches. As a youth and young man he worked on his father's farm, and in 1880 took over the entire responsibility for the conduct of the home place, which he later purchased, now owning 420 acres in Sumner township, 265 in Spring Valley and 130 in Jordan. Like his father before him, he is an ardent supporter of the idea that crops are more profitable when fed to live stock than when marketed directly, and with this belief in view he has been an extensive breeder of cattle. He conducted his own farm till the fall of 1911, when he turned the management of it over to his son, Edwin Henry, and moved to Stewartville, where he is at present living. Though he has retired from active farming it would be far from correct to say he lives a retired life, for he has a large number of business interests which take his attention. He is a Republican in politics and has been treasurer of the township seven years, justice of the peace several years and school clerk in district 123 for forty years consecutively. He is also a director of the First

National Bank of Spring Valley and a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery of that place. On July 4, 1869, he married Hannah Wooldridge, daughter of Edward and Mary (Smith) Wooldridge, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Minnesota in the early sixties, and after living two years in Olmsted county settled in section sixteen, Sumner township. Her father was a very prominent man in business and politics. He died March 22, 1899, and her mother died May 13, 1901. To Mr. and Mrs. King have been born eight children, two of whom died in infancy. Alta married James F. Ballinger, of Sumner, who is elsewhere mentioned in detail in this work. Clarence E. lives in Sumner township. Ernest A. and Curtin A. live in Mower county. Inez M. married Fred Cutting, of Byron, Minn. Edwin Henry is living on the old home farm in Sumner.

John E. King, the pioneer, was born in England, and there married Eleanor Harland, also a native of that country. They left their home in Scarborough in 1829, came to America and settled near Springfield, Ill., where they lived ten years, later living in Wisconsin and Iowa. In 1854 the family came to Minnesota and pre-empted 160 acres in section fourteen, Sumner township. They intended to build a frame house, and were told that as a mill was being built just southwest of the land they could secure all the lumber they desired, the first lot to be ready July 4. On that day one of the sons went to the mill and secured a load, but three days later the mill was washed away and the family had to resort to logs to build a cabin eighteen by twenty feet. In this they lived until about 1884. After a long and useful life on this farm John E. King passed away December 4, 1885, his wife having died October 11, 1877. They were the parents of twelve children, only three of whom survive: Richard S., of Fairmont, Minn.; Robert Harland, of Clark county, South Dakota, and Henry E. of this county.

Francis A. Neill was born in Ireland February 5, 1847, one of the seven children of John and Jane (McGinnis) Neill, the former of whom was born June 10, 1812, and the latter July 8, 1825. After coming to America, one son, Pierce R., being born enroute on the Atlantic ocean, the family settled in Chautauqua county, New York, where the father took up work in the shovel factory. They remained in New York state twelve years and then came west to Minnesota, arriving in Winona the day President Lincoln was shot and locating in section nineteen, Sumner township, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives, the mother dying February 8, 1867, and the father October 19, 1887. Francis A. Neill, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the common

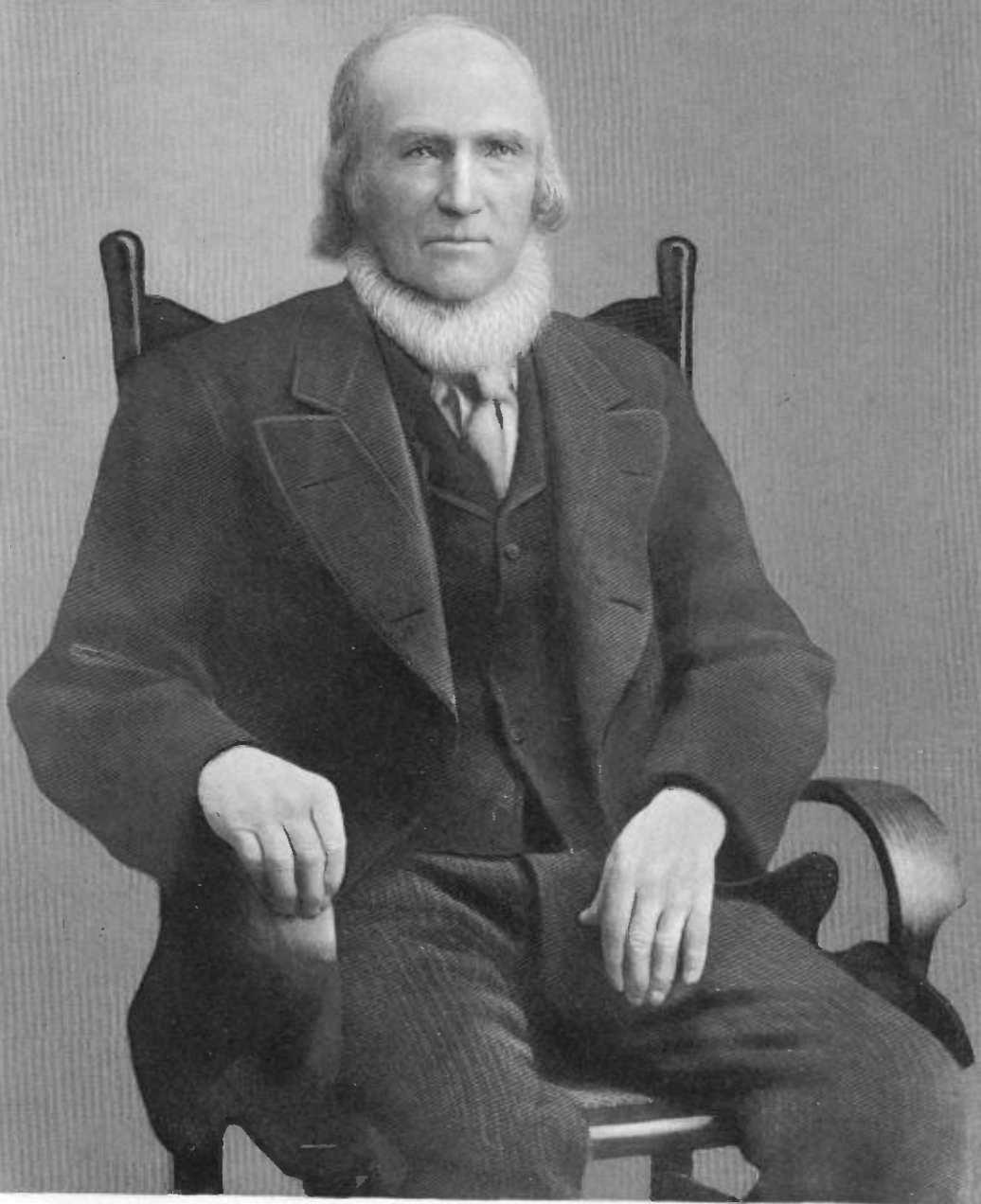
schools of New York state and is the only member of his father's family now living in Fillmore county. After assisting on the home farm for several years he worked out eight years, and later bought land in section twenty-nine, Sumner township, where he still resides, his present farm consisting of 240 acres of land in Sumner and Spring Valley townships. He has an excellent breed of Percheron horses, including "Alpine," a horse of good pedigree which was imported from France. He also keeps about fifty head of cattle and raises from forty to fifty Poland China hogs annually. When Mr. Neill first bought his present home farm it was wild land without improvements. He erected the first house in 1877, and this served as a dwelling till 1896, when the present house was built. In politics he is a Republican; has been justice of the peace for twenty-eight consecutive years and still retains that office; and was clerk of school district 126 ten years and treasurer twelve years. He has long been interested in creameries and has assisted in building several, being at present a stockholder in the Racine Creamery. Mr. Neill is a member of the Baptist church. On April 1, 1876, he married Mary Elizabeth Parkinson, daughter of William and Augusta (Freeman) Parkinson. To Mr. and Mrs. Neill have been born four children: Benjamin F., Floyd P., Anna E. and W. W. Mrs. Neill and her daughter, though busy with the cares of the large farm which brings work to the women as well as to the men, have found time to cultivate their very unusual talent for painting, and the Neill home is well filled with their handiwork. Mr. Neill is a member of the State Horticultural Society and has made a special study of this line of industry. He has 118 plum trees and raises eighteen varieties, being proprietor of Neill's Minnesota peach plum, of which he cannot raise enough to supply the demand. He has also been successful in raising three crops of fine freestone peaches.

Nelson J. Shaw was born in New York state March 25, 1843, son of James H. and Persis Shaw, who came to Minnesota in 1855 and settled in section twenty-six, Bloomfield township, where they erected a house of logs, which had a dirt floor and a roof made of slabs. In this rude dwelling these worthy people resided for twelve years, after which they built a hewn log house which was finally replaced by the comfortable home which stands today and in which they spent the rest of their lives, the husband and father dying in 1901 and the mother two years later. Nelson J., the subject of this sketch, attended school a very short time, and was early confronted with the necessity of hard labor, privation and denial. In earliest boyhood he was compelled to labor with the energy of a man, and often for weeks at a time he had nothing

to eat but potatoes, skim milk and salt, working all night at times without pay. When he was twenty-three years of age he started out for himself, rented some land and engaged in farming. Since that time Mr. Shaw has traveled about more or less and at the present time resides in Bloomfield township on his farm. A greater portion of his land he now rents, poor health preventing his working as he did in former years. Politically Mr. Shaw votes independently. He has held the office of constable for one year. On March 12, 1866, Sara J. Barnes, of Dane county, Wisconsin, became his wife, and she has proven an estimable wife and helpmeet.

**Sunnyside Poultry Yards.** The Neill Brothers, B. F., F. P. and W. W., are widely known as successful breeders and exhibitors of several varieties of pure blooded poultry, their specialty being Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds, Rose Comb White Leghorns and Rose Comb Brown Leghorns. They have won many prizes and enjoy a large trade in fancy birds, being enthusiastic and proficient in their chosen vocation. They issue a neat circular describing their stock, and are modern chicken fanciers in every respect.

**William Meighen**, honored pioneer and distinguished citizen, was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, December 5, 1816, son of William and Elizabeth (Hughes) Meighen. He was reared in his native state, studied surveying, and there remained until twenty-seven years of age. In 1845, deciding to seek his fortunes in a newer country, he came west, and lived a year in Burlington, Iowa, then a pioneer village. A year later he went to Galena, Ill., and engaged in lead mining in company with his brothers, Felix and Dennis, remaining there until the year 1849, when he organized a party with which he crossed the plains to California in quest of gold. In 1852 he returned to Galena and was elected sheriff of Joe Daviess county. In February, 1855, he came to Minnesota and opened a real estate office in the then thriving village of Forestville, and from that date until the close of his long and useful life, while looking after his large estate, he devoted much time to public questions, always in the interest of the masses, for with his broad vision of men and events he could clearly see that all legislation must be for the general public and not for the favored interests, if the Republic is to endure. He lived in Forestville until 1871, when he removed to a farm in the township of Carimona and started developing and improving the place which, under the name of "Sunnyside," is now one of the finest country estates in the county, the home being stately and beautiful, the barns being modern and commodious and the land being



Yours Truly  
Wm. Mayhew



MRS. WILLIAM MEIGHEN

well cared for in every particular. So successful was Mr. Meighen in his farming and in other lines of business that at one time he owned nearly 8,000 acres in Fillmore county. He took a keen interest in public affairs, and was a deep thinker and active worker along these lines. Originally a Republican he early espoused the cause of the Greenback party and later of the People's party, his devotion to the principles of these movements meaning to him a sacrifice of time, political offices and money. In 1859 he was elected the second chairman of supervisors in Forestville township, and as such sat on the second of the two county boards of supervisors. In the session of 1859-60 and the sessions of 1868-69 he sat in the lower house of the Minnesota state legislature, and in 1874, 1875 and 1876 he sat in the upper house of the same body. In addition to this he held many local offices and was prominent in many political conventions and committees. In 1879 Mr. Meighen was the candidate for governor of the state on the Greenback ticket and made the canvass entirely at his own expense. During his extended service in both branches of our state legislature he took a leading part in accomplishing much important legislation. He enjoyed the honor, never conferred on any other lay member of the state senate, in being chosen chairman of the judiciary committee of that body, the committee at that time being composed of some of the most distinguished lawyers in the state. Although Mr. Meighen never made a profession of the law he was surely "learned in the law." During the years of his service in the legislature of this state the leading question was that of the old "Minnesota Credit Railway Bonds." They were conceived in iniquity and a base fraud from the start, and in the opinion of Senator Meighen the people were under no obligation, legal or moral, to pay them. Thus believing he fought every move on the part of the holders of the bonds looking to their payment. He was largely instrumental in securing the amendment to our state constitution which prohibited the legislature from accepting any proposition looking to their payment without first submitting same to a referendum vote of the people. After several propositions had been submitted, and in turn voted down by the people, the bondholders despaired of ever being able to collect anything on these bogus bonds unless they could get the supreme court of the state to call the amendment to the state constitution unconstitutional and thus circumvent the popular will in the matter. This scheme was hatched by the bondholders and pushed through by Governor John S. Pillsbury in the year 1881. This scheme provided for the reconstruction of the supreme court by increasing the number of judges from three to five members and Governor Pillsbury was to appoint two Democrats as the new members, he being a Republican, and



not wishing to have the Republican bench bear all the blame. The appointments were made, thus making a non-partisan bench, the three old members being Republicans and the two new ones beings Democrats, thus taking the matter out of party politics. This court, thus reconstructed, decided in a case brought by a holder of some of the bogus bonds, as it was expected to decide, that the "constitution of the state was unconstitutional," thus leaving the settlement of the bonds with the legislature, a majority of which was elected by the corrupting influence of the holders of said bonds. After the constitutional amendment had been repealed by the supreme court Governor Pillsbury immediately reconvened the legislature in a special session in the summer of 1881, and that body promptly accepted the bondholders' offer; and there was saddled upon the people of this state the most fraudulent of all the fraudulent claims that the citizens have had to meet. The people of Minnesota have paid several million dollars principal and interest on this bogus claim and not until the year 1910 was the last payment made. At some length this previously unrecorded history as to the last chapter in this rascally bond deal is here given as a part of the biography of Senator Meighen because the one who has given this information has heard this narrative from his lips on more than one occasion and because of his active and loyal fight for the people against this as well as all other schemes for robbery during his legislative career, and lastly to furnish further evidence from the supreme court archives why our judges, first of all, should be subject to the recall. The death of Senator Meighen March 22, 1899, at an honored old age, was sincerely mourned throughout the county. Mr. Meighen was married December 27, 1868, to Catherine Foster, who proved a most helpful and sympathetic helpmeet in all his undertakings. This union was blessed with six children: William James, Jane Elizabeth, Mary C., Susan, Martha J. and Felix Hughes. William James has a fine farm called "The Oakland" in Carimona township. Felix Hughes lives at "Sunnyside." Jane Elizabeth married John Ryan, of Carrolton township. Mary C. married Henry Ford and died January 11, 1896. Susan and Martha J. are living with their mother at her attractive home in Wykoff. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church.

William J. Meighen, one of the younger farmers of Fillmore county, was born in Forestville, this county, April 2, 1871, son of Senator William and Catherine Foster Meighen. He was reared at "Sunnyside," the famous Meighen home, and attended the neighboring schools. At the present time he owns a beautiful estate of 400 acres called "The Oakland," and here he carries on general farming and makes a specialty of raising Red Poll cattle.



MR. AND MRS. FELIX H. MEIGHEN

He has erected a comfortable house, and good outbuildings, and is thoroughly equipped to carry on general farming in the most modern manner. He has affiliated himself with the A. O. U. W. and is in every way a respected and valued member of the community, a worthy son of a worthy sire. He married Mary A. Healy, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Kelly) Healy, and they have four children: Hughes, William, Donald and Claire. Mr. and Mrs. Healy were born in Ireland, and came to the United States in 1853, stopping a while in Syracuse, N. Y., after which they came to Minnesota, and settled in Carimona, this county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, the father dying June 15, 1906, and the mother, December 25, 1872.

**Felix H. Meighen**, son of Senator Wm. and Catherine (Foster) Meighen, was born at Sunnyside, Carimona township, September 8, 1886. He received his early education in the public schools of Forestville and Carimona. In 1900 he entered St. Thomas College at St. Paul, where he completed a four years' course, after which he returned to Sunnyside, the old homestead, which he conducted for one year. After the completion of the year's work he made his home in Wykoff until the early part of 1910, after which he went to Preston, where he remained until the time of his marriage with Lucille Essex Wright, which occurred August 30, 1911. Shortly after, they took up their residence at Sunnyside, which he is successfully conducting. He is the owner of 492 acres of land, 260 acres lying in Carimona township and 232 acres in Forestville. He is a member of the Woodman Lodge of Wykoff, Minnesota.

**John Johnson**, a reliable farmer of Canton township, was born in Norway township, this county, January 13, 1855, son of Gullick and Sigrie Johnson, the farm name in the old country being "Waa." He was reared on the home farm, which he and his brother Ole now operate. The place consists of 160 acres, the farm being picturesque enough to be called an estate rather than a mere farm. The buildings are excellently kept, and a general air of well-being and neatness pervades the entire surroundings. John is a bachelor and makes his home with his mother and his brother Ole and family.

**Gullick Johnson**, a pioneer, was born in Norway, his farm name in the old country being "Waa." He came to America in 1851, and located in Muskego, Racine county, Wis., where he lived three years. Then he came to Norway township, Fillmore county, but here he and his family remained but a short time, moving soon to Houston county, where they lived until 1868. In

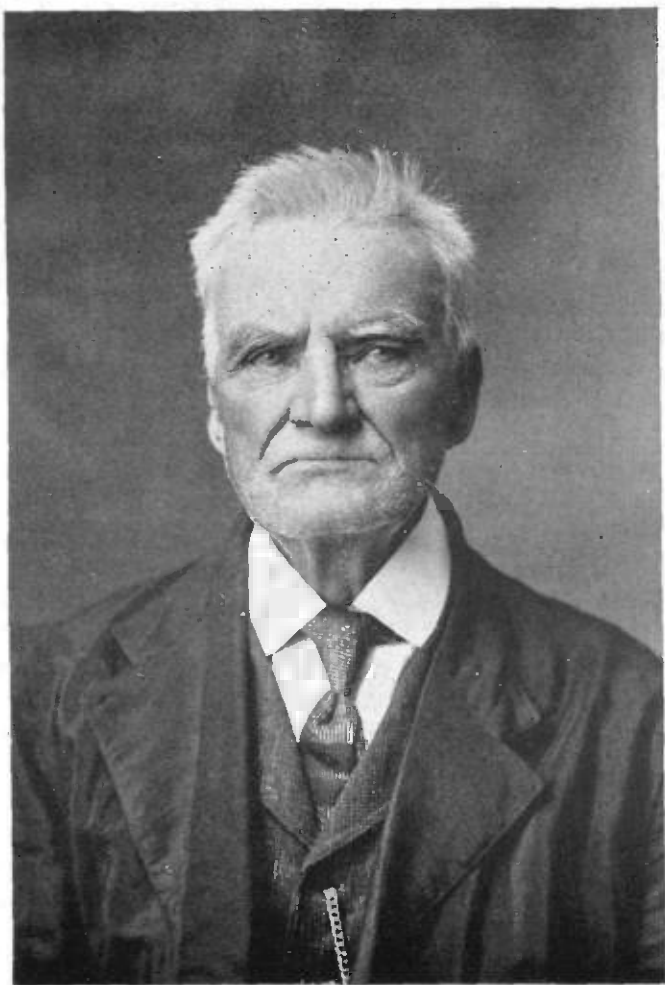
that year they located in section four, Canton township, on which at that time there was a log cabin, which was the family home for a while. Later a frame house was built. On this place Gullick carried on general farming until his death, August 20, 1906. His good wife Sigrie has now reached the good old age of eighty-six years.

**Ole Johnson**, an up-to-date agriculturist, was born in Houston county, Minnesota, August 21, 1858, son of Gullick and Sigrie Johnson, but has spent the larger part of his life on the farm where he still resides. He married Mary Berg, and they have four children: Selma, Thomas, Marie and Ella. Mr. Johnson's mother and his brother John, live with him on the home place, which is well cultivated, with a comfortable home, and suitable buildings for the housing of stock, produce, implements and tools.

**Edward Inglett**, a highly esteemed citizen of the township of Canton, was born in London, England, October 17, 1856, and with his parents came to America in 1861. They located in Brownsville Ridge, Houston county, this state, and there purchased 120 acres, the father carrying on general farming there to the present day. Edward was reared on the home farm, and there remained until fourteen years of age. Then he worked for his uncle and others until he was nineteen years of age, at which time he went to Iowa, and learned the blacksmith trade. After a while he started railroading, but afterward again returned to his trade. Later he went back to farming, and purchased a place in section twenty-four, Canton township. The farm contains eighty acres, and in addition to this, Mr. Inglett has twenty acres in section twenty-five and 120 acres in section thirteen. By his wife Betsy, he has ten children: Libby, William, Blanche, Harry, Lee, Lloyd, Florence, Floyd, Pearl and George.

**Peter P. Thompson**, a pioneer, was born in Norway, in September, 1848, and came to America with his parents in 1850, residing in Rock county, Wisconsin, until 1857 when he came with them to Newburg township, this county, where the father died in 1870. After a life devoted to farming, Peter P. and his wife are now living in the village of Mabel.

**L. P. Thompson**, a substantial farmer of Newburg township, was born on section ten, in the town where he still resides, September 24, 1870, son of Peter P. Thompson, the pioneer. He was reared on the home farm and attended school in district two. He married Clara, daughter of Christian Storlie, and this union was blessed in time with nine children. After their marriage they



NELS H. NELSON

lived at home for a time, and then started farming on section ten. Later they moved to section fifteen, and there they have lived since 1903. Mr. Thompson has made many additions to the buildings and has greatly improved the land. The farm is an excellent estate, and all of the 200 acres are under cultivation with the exception of twenty-five acres which is in timberland.

**Nels H. Nelson**, one of the pioneer settlers of Harmony township, was born in Norway, July 24, 1840, son of Herbjorn and Augusta (Austin) Nelson, natives of Norway. They with their family came to America in 1842 and located eighteen miles west of Milwaukee, in Waukesha county, where they remained for twelve years. In 1854 they came west to Minnesota and located in Harmony township, where the father purchased a claim of 150 acres in section twenty-four, for which he paid the government \$200. That same year he erected a log cabin. He and his sons broke, cleared and grubbed the land and followed general farming. The father died in 1884 and the mother three years later, in 1887. They were the parents of six children. Esther, who became the wife of Ole Morem, is now deceased. Austin lives in Harmony township. Augusta, who married Erick Erickson, is now deceased. Nels H. lives on the old home farm. Ausne is now Mrs. Nels Nelson of Harmony township. Betsy is now Mrs. Halvor Fosse, and they live near Forest City, Iowa.

Nels H., subject of this biography, came to America with his parents when but two years of age, locating with them in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and coming with them to this county in 1854. He attended the district schools in Waukesha county and in Harmony township, this county, after which he engaged in farming with his father on the home farm. They worked and toiled together for several years and erected a fine set of outbuildings. Several years before his father's death, he purchased the old homestead on which his entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. He has greatly improved the land and buildings and has followed general diversified farming. Mr. Nelson has always taken an active interest in the progress and upbuilding of his town and county and in the early day he served as school treasurer of his district. He is an independent Republican and is a member of the Lutheran church of Harmony, to which he is a liberal contributor. Aside from his farm, he owns three lots in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

**Thomas E. Ryan**, harness maker of Harmony village, was born in Harmony township, August 3, 1865, son of Thomas and Mary (Craig) Ryan.

Thomas Ryan, the father, was born in County Tipperary, Ire-

land, August 1, 1829, and crossed the water to Canada in 1843. There he resided until 1856, when he came to Fillmore county, Minnesota. He took up a claim in Harmony township, but later disposed of this claim, and located in section fourteen, adjoining the present village of Harmony. He has the distinction of having been the first constable of Harmony township, his election dating from May 11, 1858. In 1864 he enlisted in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the war. His wife was Mary (Craig) Ryan, a native of New York state.

John Craig, and Elizabeth Craig, his wife, parents of Mrs. Thomas Ryan, and grandparents of Thomas E. Ryan, moved from Canada to Fillmore county in the fifties, being numbered among the early settlers.

Thomas E., the subject of this sketch, was reared on the home farm, and attended the district schools. He learned the trade of harness making with C. A. Thompson, and Patrick A. McKay. This business he eventually purchased from the estate of Patrick McKay in 1908. Mr. Ryan has been working at his trade for eighteen years. He has a fine store and his shop has all the latest machinery for the manufacture of harnesses. He has allied himself with the M. W. A.

Alonzo G. Gray, the pioneer, was born in Herkimer county, New York, in 1821, son of Elias Gray and Mary (Wheaton) Gray, the former a soldier in the War of 1812. Alonzo G. Gray married Lucy Ann Murch, and brought his family to Minnesota in 1854, settling in Newburg township, and preempting the 147½ acres, on which he lived until a short time before his death, which occurred in April, 1896. His wife died in 1905, and both are buried in the Lenora cemetery. Mr. Gray was active in the formation days of the county, and a believer in progress and righteousness. He was a natural lawyer, a strong intellectual man, substantial of body and mind, weighing some 235 pounds, and being noted for his splendid manhood. The Gray family combines the best blood of northern Europe, having English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish and German blood, probably mixed with a Viking strain.

William F. Gay, a prominent resident of Bloomfield township, is of Canadian birth and parentage, born March 10, 1861, son of Nelson and Mary (Brothers) Gay. He passed the years of his boyhood in attending school and assisting on the home farm, coming to this county with his parents in 1872. In 1893 he purchased land and started farming for himself. He now owns eighty acres in section twenty-seven, and forty acres in section



WILLIAM F. GAY AND FAMILY



twenty-five, his home in the village of Etna, which he purchased from Lee Rix, a former merchant of Etna, being located on the latter section. Mr. Gay carries on general farming, but rents most of his cultivated land. Aside from his farm holdings, he owns stock in the Farmers' store at Spring Valley, and in the creamery at Chester, Iowa. He is a Republican in politics, but has never cared to seek public office. The subject of this sketch was married, November 23, 1897, to Rose Brodbent.

**Nelson J. Gay**, deceased, with his wife, Mary Brothers, came from Canada in 1868, bringing their family and settling in Burr Oak, Iowa. In 1872 they came to this county and settled in Bloomfield township, where he rented land several years and subsequently spent ten years at Rock county, after which he returned to his old home in Canada. He then returned to Minnesota, in 1897, and passed away on September 3, 1906. His wife died in Rock county in 1873. They were the parents of five children: William F., of Etna; Ida, of Oregon; Charles, of Canada; Arthur, of North Dakota; and Cornelius, deceased.

**David McMaster**, a well-to-do farmer, residing in the village of Canton, was born in section thirty, Canton township, son of George and Martha (Cadman) McMaster, the pioneers. While David was still of tender years, the family moved to section twenty-eight, near the village, and there he spent his boyhood, attending the school in district twenty-four, and assisting his father on the farm. He owns considerable land and still devotes his life to agricultural pursuits, although he makes his home in the village. The subject of this sketch married Celia O. Bates, a native of Canton, and they have two children: Hazel V. and Vernon A.

**George McMaster**, now deceased, an honored veteran of the Civil War, and early settler, was born April 27, 1830, in the state of Massachusetts, where he was reared and where he learned the spinners' trade. In 1849 he moved to Vermont, where he married Martha Cadman, and there resided until 1853. Then the young couple came westward to Illinois, and in 1855 drove from Galena to Decorah, Iowa, where they joined the company of Captain J. W. Elliot and came to Fillmore county, where the McMasters located on a farm on section thirty, where they lived a number of years. It is said that he built the first shanty between Elliots and Big Spring on the St. Paul and Dubuque territorial road. In 1864 he enlisted for one year in Company D, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. In 1869 he sold his former farm and moved to section twenty-eight, near the village of Canton, where he pur-

chased 120 acres of land and erected a house of hewn blocks. While in active life, Mr. McMaster was a farmer and devoted considerable time to stock raising. In his latter years he retired. He died in 1910, and his wife passed away September 12, 1869. To Mr. and Mrs. George McMaster were born six children: E. J., October 27, 1855; M. M., November 16, 1858; John, August 16, 1860; G. J., August 18, 1862; David, October 3, 1864; and M. J. March 26, 1867.

**Martin M. Matson**, a modern agriculturist of Canton township, was born in Henrytown, township of Amherst, March 15, 1877, son of Math and Enger Matson. Math, the father, was born in Norway, and came to America about 1876, locating in Amherst, this county, where he lived until he moved his family to Harmony about the year 1895. There he rented a farm and lived the remainder of his days. Martin M. obtained his schooling in Harmony and has always devoted his life to farm pursuits. He married Genar Lansrud and they have four children, Arnold, Barnerd, Garfield and Victor. Mr. Matson is operating a farm of 207 acres in section three, Canton township.

**Thomas Alfson**, a capable farmer living in the township of Harmony, was born near Tinn, Prestegeld, Norway, May 26, 1856, son of Charles Kittle, who brought his family to America in 1859. They lived some four years in Ridgeway, Iowa, and then in 1863 came to Harmony township, and settled in section one, where the father built a log house, stable and granary. It was here that another brother, Tobias, was born March 3, 1868. The father and mother continued to live here until their death, the father passing away in 1903 and the mother in 1873. Thomas was reared on the home farm, and obtained his education in the schools of district forty. He has never married. His well-kept farm comprises one hundred acres, and his pretty little home among the hills presents a picturesque view of contentment and prosperity as well as of intelligent and painstaking care.

**Eugene B. Hartwell**, manager of the Harmony yard of the Colman Lumber Co., was born in Oakland Valley, Franklin county, Iowa, January 14, 1869, son of Samuel and Mary (Biglow) Hartwell. Samuel Hartwell came from Hubbertson, Mass., and his wife from Fitzwilliam in the same state. They both came west at an early day and settled in Iowa. By trade Samuel Hartwell was a harness maker, but after coming west he devoted his life to farming, until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted and served until the close of the hostilities. Upon his return he again took up farming, but on account of his health he



MR. AND MRS. J. J. LUNDE

was obliged to give up this occupation. He is now employed at his trade in New Hampton, Iowa. Eugene B., the subject of this sketch, attended school in Hampton and New Hampton, Iowa, and later learned the trade of harness making in the former town. Subsequently he was employed four years in a harness shop in Preston. After this he conducted a shop of his own in Harmony. Since 1899 he has been engaged in his present occupation. He is one of the well-known men of the village and is a member of Canton Lodge, No. 191, A. F. & A. M., as well as of the M. W. A. Mr. Hartwell married Ruby, the daughter of Stephen and Sarah Ford, and they have one daughter, Marguerite.

John J. Lunde, an estimable citizen and early resident, now deceased, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, January 22, 1850, and came to this county with his parents April 7, 1853. He grew to manhood on the farm in Preston township, attended school, and assisted his parents. February 2, 1877, he married Pauline Munson, the daughter of Ole Munson, the pioneer, and a year later, they located on a farm of 170 acres in section twenty-three, and started agricultural pursuits for themselves. Their house, which was built of stone, was at that time considered one of the finest in that part of the county. Later, as opportunity made it possible, Mr. Lunde built an addition to his house, thereby making it more commodious and comfortable. He erected good outbuildings, and made many improvements, bringing the place to a high stage of cultivation. In 1894 he purchased the Ole Munson farm of 190 acres, adjoining his place, thus making a fine farm of 360 acres, on which he engaged in general and dairy farming. His prosperity increased with the years, and he was recognized as an industrious man of sterling character, faithful in all that he undertook, and highly esteemed in the neighborhood. His death, which occurred November 25, 1902, was a loss, not only to his family, but to the community and town. Besides his widow, who still lives on the home farm, he left six children: George A.; Otto M., Emelia Andrine, now Mrs. Hans Holger; Rudolph M.; Josephine P., the wife of Ingard Kenniberg, and Clarence M. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

David A. Peirce was born in Hudson, Maine, October 2, 1830, one of the ten children of David and Sarah (Plummer) Peirce. He married Amanda M. Brailey on March 29, 1856, and came to Le Roy, Minn., on June 10, the following year, where he pre-empted land in section one. In 1862 he moved his family to the village of Spring Valley and enlisted in Company E, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving two years and ten months. After he was mustered out, he and his family continued to live

in Spring Valley and vicinity until the spring of 1869 when they moved to Bath township, Freeborn county, Minnesota, where they resided until fall of 1885 or 1886, when, owing to Mrs. Peirce's ill health they returned to Spring Valley village. There Mrs. Peirce died January 23, 1887. Since then Mr. Peirce has made his home with his oldest daughter, Mrs. M. N. Johnson or with his youngest son Varney J., who has the old homestead in Bath township, excepting nine years when he and his son lived in Roseau county, where he filed his soldier claim on a quarter section in Cedar Bend township, which he still owns, as well as a quarter section in Wadena county, two miles from Aldridge. Mr. and Mrs. Peirce came of the good old Puritan stock and have stood for all that made for good citizenship in progress and education. To them were born five children: Sarah A., wife of M. N. Johnson, of York, Fillmore county; Frank D., editor, at St. Paul; Clara C., who died December 6, 1890; Eleanor P., married to Chas. C. Marquis, of Waukegan, Ill.; and Varney J., on the old homestead, Bath, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Peirce sacrificed themselves much to give their children the advantages of a good practical education and instilled in their heart what is far better, the elements of useful citizenship.

**Mathias N. Johnson**, the oldest of the two sons and three daughters of Neils and Elene Johnson, was born at Vestre Thotens Christains Amt, Norway, October 26, 1850. Here he lived with his parents attending school and church, being leader in the boy's choir, until the spring of 1869, when he emigrated to America, arriving in Bloomfield township, Minnesota, June 10. He attended school, worked as a farm hand, rented land and finally, August 29, 1882, purchased his present home "Hjem vi Fandt" located in York township, on the south half of the northwest quarter of section seven. His farm is one of the best improved in the locality and has good buildings with many of the modern conveniences, which indicates the industry and thrift with which it has been managed. His specialty is fine horses and a high grade of shorthorn cows noted for their milk and cream giving qualities. His mechanical ingenuity has been of inestimable value in making and repairing, and many of his appliances are worthy a patent. On May 8, 1880, he was united in marriage to Sarah Amanda Peirce of Bath township, Freeborn county, Minnesota, at Preston, Minn. Rev. Stephen Drew, formerly pastor of the Congregational Church of Albert Lea and Hartland, officiating. Mrs. Johnson was the oldest of the three daughters and two sons of David A. and Amanda Brailey Peirce, born in Marriville, Maine, February 24, 1857, and coming with her parents to Le Roy township June 10, of the same year. There her father

"took up land" and there they lived until the Civil War broke out when her father enlisted and her mother with her three little ones moved to the village of Spring Valley, Minn. There she attended school until the spring of 1869, when the family moved to Bath township, Freeborn county. She attended district school at home until fifteen and then accepted a position as teacher in which capacity she continued for eight years, going to high school either at Albert Lea or Owatonna between terms. She was in charge of the Freeborn village graded school for the years of 1877 and 1878. In 1879 she taught in Geneva, also the first term in the village of Hartland. She had the distinction of being the first student educated wholly or in part in Freeborn county, to receive a First Grade Certificate there. Mrs. Johnson was a born student and instructor. Never did the dull, bashful or timid child have a more ardent friend and counselor. Since her marriage she has taught evening school in her own home for several winters, welcoming students and giving them home care while she thoroughly coached them. Always the friend of the unfortunate child; having one or sometimes several at a time to care for in her home, she is always willing and ready to answer the call of the sick and afflicted, especially the poor. Mrs. Johnson's great love of dumb animals and Horticulture has made her a willing efficient helpmeet to her husband in all his undertakings. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have an adopted son, Willis N., a bright earnest student, who resides with them on the home farm. They all are members of the Etna Union Church, where they attend and are active workers in that organization and are much respected. Mrs. Johnson is an earnest member of the Etna W. C. T. U. Mr. Peirce and Willis are honorary members. Mr. Peirce, the aged father, also makes his home here.

**Frank J. Thayer** was born in the house which he occupies at the present time, on the family homestead in Spring Valley township, April 9, 1872, son of William T. and Ella (Smith) Thayer. His boyhood was similar to that of other boys reared on the farm, being spent in attending school, helping his father and preparing himself to take charge of a farm when he should become of age. In 1895, he rented some land in Forestville and Spring Valley townships, and now resides on the home farm, where he cultivates 160 acres and engages in stockraising and dairying. He has rented a farm west of Racine, which he expects to occupy some time later. He prefers Poland China hogs for general market purposes, and raises a good breed of farm horses. Politically, Mr. Thayer is a Republican and he has been elected to serve as road overseer for several years. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Spring Valley and is a man respected by all with whom asso-

ciated, either in business or social circles. On February 28, 1898, he married Effie McClary, daughter of Eliphlet and Mary (Shaw) McClary, of Etna. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer have two children: Harold, born December 13, 1898, and Mildred, December 1, 1899.

**William T. Thayer**, one of the early settlers in the county, was a native of Pennsylvania, where he spent the days of his youth. He came to Minnesota and settled in this county. After a few years he married Ella Smith of Spring Valley township. For many years they resided on section nineteen, Spring Valley township, where Mr. Thayer made many improvements and carried on general farming. To himself and wife six children were born: Charles T., now of Los Angeles, Cal.; Frank, on the old homestead; Nora B., now Mrs. Charles Rose of Olympia, Wash.; Clyde, of Ethanac, Cal.; Ara L., now Mrs. Frank Hess; Ella, now Mrs. Archie Jorris, both of Spring Valley, Minn. In 1882 Mrs. Thayer passed away and Mr. Thayer now makes his home in California.

**Louris S. Rendahl** was born May 16, 1884, son of John O. Rendahl, a native of Norway, who came to the United States in 1876, and settled in Wisconsin, afterward coming to Minnesota and settling for a time near Rochester, later purchasing 160 acres of wild land in section seven, Beaver township, this county, which he cleared and broke, erected necessary buildings and made a comfortable home where the family has continued to prosper. He was married before coming to the United States and raised his family here in Beaver where they had good school advantages. John O. died May 2, 1911 and his wife, June 29, 1907. Louris S. Rendahl received his education in the common schools which he attended until seventeen years of age. He then continued to assist his father until 1908, when he took over the management of the home farm which he has since conducted. He now owns 360 acres of land, all but eighty acres of which is in this county, having a well cared for farm and giving particular attention to stock raising. His sisters Julia and Emma keep house for him. He is a member of the Lutheran church in Ostrander.

**Ole J. Holte**, a prosperous farmer of York township, was born in Norway, August 14, 1859, son of Halvor Holte, who came to the United States in 1875. This family settled in Beaver township and the subject of this sketch assisted on the home farm, and attended the common schools at convenient times. He remained at home until twenty-five years of age and then rented land in York township, for five years. By saving and careful management Mr. Holte was then able to buy 160 acres in section

eighteen where he still resides. He follows general farming and has a good herd of Shorthorn cattle and sells his cream to the Chester, Iowa, creamery, in which he is a stockholder. He has a large flock of sheep and raises hogs, chickens and ducks. Some years ago Mr. Holte built a large and comfortable house and has all necessary farm buildings in good condition and is now building a silo. On November 18, 1886, he married Cecelia Lundervold of Beaver township, and to them have been born ten children. Henry is in California. Lars is in South Dakota. Bert is in North Dakota. Oliver is a student at Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa. Elmer, Flossie, Francis, William, Albert and Herman are at home. Mr. Holte is a member of the Lutheran church of Bloomfield in which he has several times held office. In politics he is a Republican but has never aspired to public office.

Melvin Eugene Baker was born in Illinois, November 28, 1848, son of Lyman I. and Betsy E. (Mason) Baker, natives of New York, who moved to Illinois, where the father followed his trade of stone masonry. In 1856 they came to Spring Valley, later moving to Bloomfield township, near Etna. Here the parents farmed for over thirty years afterward leaving the farm and moving to Spring Valley, where they died. Lyman I. Baker was a veteran of the Civil War and served in Company I, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. M. E. Baker, the subject of this sketch, was reared near Etna and attended the common schools of the county until eighteen years of age. After he left school he began to learn the carpenter trade which he mastered and at which he continued to work for over fifteen years in Etna. He then moved to Spring Valley. In 1907 he went to Bottineau county, North Dakota, where he was in the contracting and building business. After three years he returned to Spring Valley, where he has since resided. Mr. Baker is a member of the Methodist church and in politics is a prohibitionist. He married Elner Fate, on August 9, 1876, and to them were born five children, two of whom died in infancy. Grenville is a lawyer and resides in North Dakota. Alta married Ralph Price. James is a farmer of Dutton, Montana. The wife and mother died December 2, 1900, and since that time Mr. Baker has made his home with Mrs. Price, his daughter.

E. G. H. Adams was born in Milford, Massachusetts. His father was a Vermont Yankee, and his mother was born and reared in Massachusetts. When E. G. H. reached the age of three years the Adams family moved to Northfield, Vermont. From the age of three until he was eleven, the boy did odd jobs such as attending the common schools and fishing in summer and coast-



ing in winter. At the age of eleven he was transplanted to one of those stony farms in Cabot "to make a man of him." This was against the boy's will. He had no interest in the control of soil conditions or how to preserve the necessary supply of moisture. But the fishing was better than at Northfield, and so was the sport in winter. So the years passed and one Monday morning he left the farm for Montpelier, the capital of the state, and he next morning entered the office of the "Argus and Patriot," an office famed for its fine job printing and Thomas Jefferson Democracy. Four years later to a day he left the printing office and entered the employ of the Boston and Maine railroad, working his way up to a locomotive engineer. His last year of railroad life was as assistant to the chief clerk of the general passenger and ticket agent of the road, having charge of all the conductors and baggage masters. He made good use of this year and at its close went to Williamstown, Mass., and the day after his arrival found him manager of five Western Union Telegraph offices, and working No. 6 wire out of Albany, N. Y. At the end of the year he married Emeretta A. Fyler, a Vermont girl, joined the Masons, and came to Spring Valley, Minnesota, on a visit with his wife. He has not apparently got his visit made out for he is still here. He opened up a store and sold goods until the wheat crop failed; then closed the store, bought a printing press and type, rolled up his sleeves and went to printing. He is still at it. In August, 1884, Mr. J. Sawtell Ford, of Chicago, offered a cash prize for the best specimen of job printing west of the Mississippi river. The prize was awarded to Mr. Adams, the second prize going to San Francisco, Cal. Mr. Adams was in the service of the U. S. Internal Revenue service under Grover Cleveland's first term. In 1889-1890 and again in 1892 he was the Worshipful Master of Spring Valley Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M., and in March, 1911, was elected secretary of the same lodge. The same month he was elected village recorder of Spring Valley. He was re-elected to both offices in 1912. He has one son, Dion Bartley Adams, foreman of the Leicht Press, Winona, Minnesota.

**George Vehrenkamp**, a progressive and prosperous farmer of Fountain township, was born in Germany, October 17, 1865, son of Dietrich and Louise Vehrenkamp, who spent the span of their years in the Fatherland. He received his education in the land of his birth, and there remained until 1890, when he came to America and located in West Salem, Wis. In 1892, he came to this county and made his home in Fillmore township until 1894, when he purchased his present farm of 200 acres in section thirty-three, Fountain township. He has greatly improved this land, and rebuilt his house and outbuildings. He has also purchased eighty



LEON LILLIE AND FAMILY

acres in Forestville, which he works in connection with his home place. Mr. Vehrenkamp was married, September 21, 1894, to Dora Kohlmeyer, born June 17, 1872, near West Salem, Wis., daughter of Henry and Maria (Nordbrinck) Kohlmeyer, the former of whom is dead and the latter of whom lives near Wykoff in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Vehrenkamp are the parents of two children: John, born February 5, 1896, and Alvena, born March 4, 1898. The family faith is that of the German Lutheran church.

**Palmer Lillie** and Martha (Bushnell) Lillie, his wife, pioneers of this county, came from Ohio, in 1858, and settled on section eighteen, Jordan township, where they preempted land. There they resided until some time in the seventies, when they moved to section sixteen, in the same township, and there spent the remainder of their lives, Mr. Lillie dying in March, 1897, at a few days over fifty-two years of age, and his wife in the same month in 1907. These worthy people underwent many hardships in the early days of their residence in this county. Mr. Lillie hauled wheat to Winona by means of an ox team, the trip taking five days. Often on these trips, his wife accompanied him, taking her knitting along, and thus profitably spending her time. Water had to be hauled a long distance, and the wild prairie and timber land required breaking and cultivating. But with the years they prospered, and spent their declining years in comfort. Mrs. Lillie was the daughter of Theodore Bushnell, who was born in 1783, and died in 1845, he being one of the noted Hartland Bushnells of Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Lillie had two sons and one daughter. Leon L. and William live in Jordan. Jennie married Alfred Crosby and they have one son, Palmer.

**Leon L. Lillie**, commissioner of Fillmore county, and one of the leading farmers of Jordan, was born in the township where he still resides, December 3, 1859, son of Palmer and Martha (Bushnell) Lillie, the pioneers. He was reared on the home farm, attending the district schools, and leading the useful life of a boy of his day and generation. In time he started farming on his own account, and gradually built up a successful industry, owning at the present time 190 acres, a part of which he rents. The farm is noted for its stock, and Mr. Lillie raises about 100 Shropshire sheep and about the same number of Poland China and other breeds of hogs each year, in addition to having a fine dairy herd of cows, and about ten blooded Clydesdale horses. All this stock is well housed in modern farm buildings. The family residence, which is a model farmhouse in every particular, was erected in 1905, replacing a former structure which was burned.

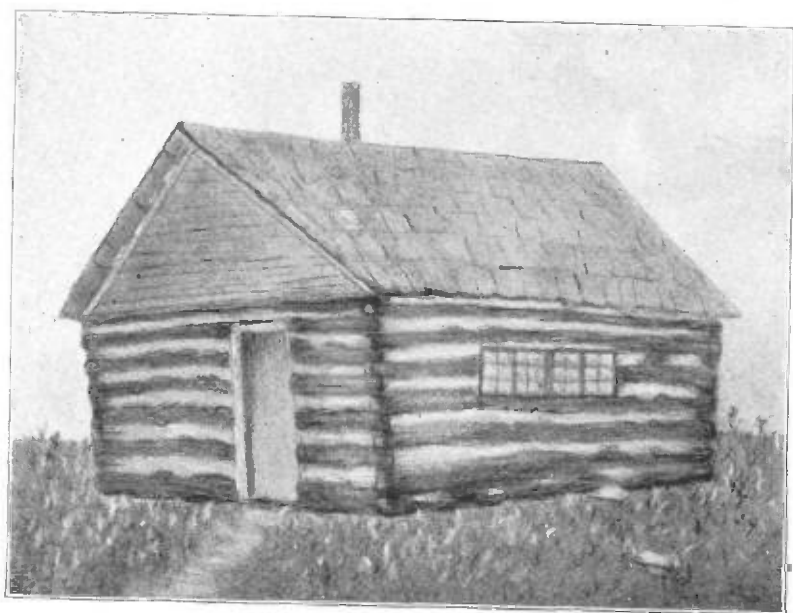
Since early youth, Mr. Lillie has taken an interest in public affairs. A staunch Republican in politics he has served in various town offices, was justice of the peace for many years, and for some twelve years was clerk of school district ninety-eight. Two years ago he was elected to his present county office. Fraternally Mr. Lillie associates with the A. O. U. W., and the Beavers. He was married, December 20, 1894, to Sarah Gilcrist, daughter of Aaron and Maria (Gardiner) Gilcrist, natives of Ireland, who came to Minnesota in 1860, and are now living in Olmsted county. Mr. and Mrs. Lillie have three children: Lucile, born September 13, 1899, Dorris, born August 12, 1900, and Theodore, July 20, 1906, all attending school in their home district.

Mrs. Lucinda Miller Onstine, reputed to be the first public school teacher in Fillmore county, was born at Cross River, New York, September 9, 1837, daughter of Enoch and Sarah Ann (Scofield) Miller, natives of that state. She was educated in the public schools and when seventeen years of age came to Minnesota with her parents, living a while near Winona and later moving to Canton, this county, where she taught school. Then she went to Freeborn county, but soon returned and was married February 27, 1856, to C. C. Onstine, to whom she bore six children: Charles, George, Sylvester, William, Henry and Lulu May. Charles died at the age of seventeen. George died in infancy. Sylvester was cashier in O'Farrels Bank, and held that position for twelve years. He died at thirty-three years of age. William is deputy game warden at Brainerd, Minn. Henry is a carpenter in Chatfield. In 1868, Mrs. Onstine came to Chatfield, where she has since made her home, with the exception of two years, when she lived at Brainerd, Minn. She is a member of the Episcopal church of Chatfield, and is held in high esteem by all who know her. It is interesting to note that when her parents started for Minnesota, they went to Buffalo, New York, on the canal and from there to Chicago in a sail boat, the trip consuming a month's time. They later settled in Columbia, Wis., and eventually moved to Minnesota. The father died at Santa Monica, Cal. The mother died in Iowa with her son. Mrs. Onstine's one brother, Harris, fought in the Indian wars in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Ole Egge, a staunch old citizen of Canton township, was born in Hadeland, Norway, in May, 1839. He came to America in 1870 with his wife and son Ole, and located in Greenfield, Harmony township, where for four years he was employed at various work. At the end of this time he purchased a farm, in section twenty-three, Canton township, where he built a frame house and pro-



MRS. LUCINDA MILLER ONSTINE



FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE IN COUNTY.

ceeded to cultivate his farm. He is now practically retired from active life, and his son-in-law is looking after the home farm, which comprises eighty acres of land, practically all of which is under cultivation. His wife died November 23, 1906. His children are: Annie R. (deceased), Ole, Bernt, Dena R., Julius, Albert and Martin. Ole and Bernt are in Oregon. Dena R. was born in Canton, attended school in district thirteen, married Carl Soiney and has three children: Bula, Oscar and Sidney. Julius lives in Lakewood, Iowa, Albert in Canton, Minn., and Martin in Canada. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Anton Erickson**, a successful farmer of Canton, was born in 1845, near Christiana, Norway. He came to America with his parents in 1870, and lived a year on a small place which his father purchased in Amherst. The subject of this sketch then went to the township of Norway, where he engaged at his trade as a wagon maker for six years. Then he moved to Canton and purchased a farm in section seventeen. The place consists of eighty acres of well cultivated land, and here Mr. Erickson has erected a home and barns, and successfully carries on general farming. He married Julia Grunwold, and this union has been blessed with six children: William, Alfred, Mary, Edna, James and Alice. The family worships at the Norwegian Lutheran church at Henrytown.

**Elisha Barber**, a progressive farmer residing in the township of Preston, was born in West Virginia, March 18, 1869, son of Martin and Mary Barber, who came to Minnesota in 1875 and settled in Carimona, where the father was occupied in general farming until the time of his death. Elisha, the son, received his education in the common schools of Fillmore county, worked for his father on the farm, and since reaching his majority has been a resident of Preston township. He now carries on diversified farming, together with dairying, and his industrious habits are making him successful in his work. He married Olive Engebretson, and they are the parents of two children—Elmer E. and Olvin M. Mr. Barber has been elected to serve as one of the supervisors of the township for six successive years, and his record in this capacity has won the confidence of the residents of the community and township. At present he is operating the D. N. Little farm, which is well cultivated and cared for.

**Michael Anstett**, one of the earliest pioneers, was born in France May 5, 1831, son of George and Katherine (Schwel) Anstett, who lived and died in their native country. In 1853 Michael left his old home, sailed across the ocean and landed in

Canada, where he spent one year, after which he came to the United States and located at Locust Lane, Iowa, where he remained but a short time and then set out on foot for Preston, making the trip in the winter when the ground was white with snow. There was but one house at that time in what is now the village of Preston. The following spring he homesteaded a claim of 160 acres, where he began farming. He later erected a saw mill, which he operated for John Kaercher for three years. In 1862 he purchased some land in section 9, where he built a house and barn and developed and improved the place. For many years he made his home here and with his faithful wife endured many hardships incident to pioneer life. He left the farm in 1886 and moved into Preston village, where he now lives in retirement and comfort, enjoying the reward of years of activity and industry.

**Charles E. Dunn** was born in the township of Preston, October 7, 1876, son of Samuel S. and Theodosia (Halsey) Dunn, passed the years of his boyhood acquiring an education and fitting himself for the useful life of a successful farmer, and now carries on farming operations on the old homestead, which comprises 120 acres of well improved land, made more productive and valuable each succeeding year under his careful management. Samuel S. Dunn, his father, was a native of Huntington county, New Jersey, and he came west to Wisconsin in 1856, where he followed agricultural pursuits until 1864, at which time he came to Minnesota and located in section thirty-five, Preston township, where he erected a handsome stone residence and passed the remainder of his life. To himself and wife eleven children were born, William H., Ella, Lucy A., George H., Orel J., Alice, Marcus, Norman, Elwood, Herbert and Charles E. Mr. Dunn departed this life in 1907, and his widow died two years later. They were estimable people, who had borne the hardships and privations incident to the life of early settlers, but had overcome great difficulties, and advanced toward prosperity each year.

**Samuel Anstett**, a well-known Preston farmer, was born in this township, February 26, 1866, son of Michael and Katherine (Moebs) Anstett, early pioneers. He was engaged during the brief period of boyhood in attending school and assisting his father with the multitudinous duties of a farmer's life, and so paved the way for his success. In 1886 he took entire charge of the old homestead and is successfully carrying on general farming there now, making a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle. His farm comprises 240 acres and he owns in addition to this another farm of 120 acres located in section 16. In 1904 Mr. Anstett erected a new house and good outbuildings and in many ways

he has greatly improved his property. He is secretary of the Preston and Harmony Telephone Company, which was incorporated in 1909, and he has always taken an active interest in the general improvement of the township in which he was born and grew to manhood and where he now resides. Anna Zimmerman became his wife, and their marriage has resulted in the birth of three children—Pearl, Stella and Bessie.

**C. Webster Hill** was born on section 33, Harmony township, where he still resides, September 6, 1858, son of Charles R. and Sarah Hill, natives of New York state. C. R. was born in Allegheny county in 1814 and in his twenty-third year moved to St. Joseph county, Michigan, and was married. They made their home in Michigan till 1852, in which year Mr. Hill, in company with a number of his acquaintances, went to California. They drove ox teams the entire distance and a whole day of exceedingly hard work was needed to cover the distance we now go in an hour in a comfortable train. In 1855 he returned from California and moved his family from Michigan to Fillmore county, Minnesota. He here took the claim where his son, C. W., now lives. It was here the elder Hills made their home and lived the pioneer life of those days. In the month of March, 1878, the mother died, and in the same month twenty-one years later C. R. Hill died. They were the parents of five children—Homer, Jane, Harriett, C. Webster and George Washington. After C. Webster had completed the work in the common schools of the township he went to South Dakota in 1879 and located a homestead, but did not remain there long. The next seven years he spent in travel, research and adventure, and in 1886 he returned and bought the old family home in Harmony and since has followed the stock business and general farming. Although he ships many cattle and much other stock from Harmony, and his business in this line is extensive, his farm has not been neglected. It is well cultivated and cared for in all departments, buildings are well repaired and renewed as necessary, and the entire farm bespeaks the enterprise and progress of the proprietor. In 1888 he married Lois Haskins, and to this union have been born five children—Virginia, Dwight, Joseph, Hazel and Helen, all of whom are at home. Mr. Hill is a Republican and has served as treasurer of school district 44 some years.

**Francis Edwin Titus** was born in the village of Vienna, now called Phelps, Ontario county, New York, July 21, 1846. He is of Pilgrim-Puritan blood; at least one of his ancestors was a passenger on the Mayflower, which came to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. One of his ancestors was among those who



responded to the call of Paul Revere at Lexington. Two of his great-grandfathers were with Putnam and Warren at Bunker Hill. None of his ancestors are known to have come to America later than 1635. Like the rest of those pioneers they were inured to hardships and privations, which produce a sturdy race. In 1855 he moved with his mother, his father having died before he was a year old, and an older brother to Kane county, Illinois, in Blackberry township, and also spent about a year in Batavia. In 1857 he came to Fillmore county, Minnesota, living the first year in a veritable log cabin with a puncheon floor and a shake roof, in Canton township, on what is now the Maland farm, about one and a quarter miles west from Lenora. In 1858 he moved to and grew to manhood on a farm in section 34 in Amherst township, excepting one year, which he spent in Wolworth county, Wisconsin. He attended school in the Henrytown district, and also attended the Chatfield High School part of two winter terms, but had to leave both terms on account of sickness. Although he attended school in two districts in the state of New York, three districts in Illinois, one district in Wisconsin and two in Minnesota, still his school advantages have been very limited; but being naturally a student and improving all opportunities, supplemented with study at home, which he still continues, he ranks with the best educated people of Fillmore county. He worked on the farm in Amherst township, which he now owns, at first with an uncle and afterwards with his mother as housekeeper until, on account of poor health and his mother being an invalid, he moved to the village of Lenora, Minnesota, in 1870, where he has since resided with the exception of sixteen months' residence in Bixby township, Perkins county, South Dakota, where he filed on a homestead in November, 1909, and lived thereon until August, 1911, when he commuted for his homestead and returned to Lenora, Minnesota. He worked for a number of years in Lenora at broommaking and at photography for awhile. He was always a great reader. His house always was and is well supplied with books, papers and magazines. He was always well informed and took great interest in current events and especially in national politics, seldom in a partisan way but in a patriotic way, from the standpoint of a free, independent American citizen. He has been writing articles for the local press as the spirit moved for about twenty years, expressing himself on nearly all important subjects that have come before the American people—tariff, finance, education, temperance, our colonial policy, etc., etc. He has delivered addresses on Memorial day, Fourth of July, old settlers' day, and on the stump. He was a justice of the peace for nearly eighteen years, or until he refused to qualify again. He was on the school board

for twenty-six consecutive years, an officer of numerous local organizations and a notary public. He is the pioneer advocate of simplified spelling in Fillmore county. He has published several articles on this subject in the "Preston Times." He addressed the graduating class of the eighth grade of the district schools of this county and their parents and friends in Preston, June 27, 1912, and secured thirty-eight signatures to an agreement to help introduce and adopt simplified spelling, thus starting the ball rolling in this county. He is a single man.

**Harry T. Olin**, the popular druggist of Wykoff, was born at Brookings, South Dakota, in February, 1883, son of T. P. Olin. When but a small boy the subject of this biography was brought to Red Wing by his parents, where he grew to manhood and received his education, completing the high school course in that city. After finishing school he began the study of drugs in 1889 and he received a state diploma in 1904. He was employed by Charles T. Heller in St. Paul for a period of five years, after which he came to Wykoff and bought out Oscar Hargesheimer. He now operates the store under the name of Olin Drug Store, and carries on a rapidly increasing and successful business, handling wall paper of all grades as well as keeping a valuable stock of drugs. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, but is independent in his views. He is a member of the National Association of American Druggists, and is respected as an energetic and progressive citizen.

**Albert Ibach**, a representative farmer of Carimona township, is a native of Germany, born November 18, 1847, son of Joseph and Mary Ibach, who left the shores of the fatherland in 1853 and sailed across the briny deep for the United States, bringing with them their two sons—Albert and George. For one year after their arrival in this country they made their home in Buffalo, New York, after which they came West to Dubuque, Iowa. After spending two years in Iowa the family moved to Minnesota and located in section 14, Carimona township, where the father engaged in diversified farming. Albert, the subject of this biography, grew to manhood in Minnesota and received his education in the schools of Fillmore county. Upon reaching 18 years of age he secured employment of his brother, Joseph, in the Preston brewery, the framework of which institution was built in 1858 by Joseph Ibach, Albert's brother. At various periods Mr. Ibach was engaged in assisting his father on the farm, and eventually he purchased some land in section 23, where he established his home and carried on farming operations, being engaged in this occupation at the present time. This farm was purchased in

1887 and has been well improved and rendered more productive each year by Mr. Ibach, who is an energetic and industrious farmer. To himself and wife, who before her marriage to Mr. Ibach was Emma War, seven children have been born.

**Fred Stede**, a progressive farmer of the township of Preston, was born in the Province Waldeck, Germany, January 31, 1865. He acquired his education in the schools of his native land and after completing his studies served in the German army for a period of three years, being a soldier in the Eighty-third Regiment, Battalion No. 3, Company 10. He crossed the ocean in 1888 and came to America, then proceeding West and settling in Minnesota. For a short time he lived in Preston village, after which he went to Harmony, where he worked out for four years. In 1901 he purchased a farm in section 21, which he operated for seven years, after which he bought his present home and property, where he carries on general farming together with some stock raising. His farm of 160 acres is well tilled and a valuable producer of grain. Mr. Stede has made many improvements on his possessions and he is both industrious and frugal in his habits, thus respected by his fellow men.

**James C. McNee**, a prosperous farmer residing in Bloomfield township, was born in Delaware county, New York, January 23, 1846, son of William B. and Susan Jane (Craig) McNee. The father came to Minnesota in 1855, preëmpted land in this county, and here passed the remainder of his years, his death occurring January 23, 1904, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years. James, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the common district school near home and later completed his studies in Spring Valley, after which he assisted his father with the work on the farm. In 1869 he met with an accident whereby he lost an arm, and this incapacitated him for farm labor so he accepted a position teaching school and continued in this occupation until he was forty-four years of age. In 1884 he purchased a tract in section 23, where he carries on general farming and dairying, his entire holdings in the township comprising 425 acres, part of which he rents. Mr. McNee is a staunch Republican, and his ability has been recognized by the people in his township, who have elected him to serve as town clerk for fourteen years. He has also been census enumerator, and a member of the school board in district 109 for many years, serving with good sense and judgment in all offices to which he has been elected. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' store of Spring Valley, also in the Telephone Company. On September 17, 1890, he was united in marriage to Anna Katherine Sikkink, and this

marriage has been blessed with three children—James C., Jr., born July 4, 1896; Robert E., born January 26, 1901, and William, born August 11, 1891, and died January 7, 1894. Mrs. Anna Katherine (Sikkink) McNee was born at Ratum, Winterswyk, Holland, March 31, 1862, daughter of William and Jennie (Grepik) Sikkink.

**Virgil Dryden Smith** was born in Illinois, August 3, 1852, son of Dryden and Elizabeth (Hines) Smith. As a youth he attended the public schools of Spring Valley and a private school at Decorah, Iowa, and remained at home until twenty-three years of age, farming on the home place for his father. Later, in partnership with his brother, Hamilton, now in Tennessee, he farmed on section 34, Spring Valley township. In 1875 he went to Iowa and located in Waverly, where he took up painting and paper-hanging, in which lines he has continued to the present time. He remained in Waverly three years, and then went to Waterloo, in the same state, and there followed his trade till 1900. Business in connection with the family estate then called him back to Spring Valley, where he has since made his home. Mr. Smith is a man of independent mind, but votes with the Republican party. He has never sought public offices, but has always taken an active part in politics as the duty of a good citizen. Gov. A. O. Eberhard appointed him game warden in February, 1911, and he still retains that office. Mr. Smith has a pleasant home in the southern part of Spring Valley, where he and his sisters, Mrs. Fannie C. Kelley and Ada Smith, reside.

**Dryden Smith**, now deceased, was one whose work was so much a part of the development of Fillmore county that any history of this locality which did not touch on his career would fail to give a true idea of the men and affairs which have worked together to the advantage of the present generations. He was born in Pike county, Illinois, March 10, 1826, son of John M. Smith, and being fond of school and studies as a boy was no less a student as he grew older. In 1848 he began the study of law in the office of Attorney White, in Warren county, Illinois, and was admitted to the bar in Decorah, Iowa, where he began practice in 1854, being associated with some of Iowa's most brilliant legal minds. He came to Spring Valley in 1860 and was admitted to the Minnesota bar. Mr. Smith was a man of broad human sympathy and during his long residence here he often adjusted misunderstandings and differences of opinion which with considerable financial profit to himself he might have carried to the courts. He was three times elected probate judge. As an indication of the democracy of both the man and the times it may be

said that during his term of office he often walked to Preston early Monday morning after a Sunday spent at Spring Valley. In 1890 because of poor health it was necessary for him to discontinue his legal activities and from that time till his death he lived a retired life. He died February 22, 1900. His wife died January 18, 1904. They were the parents of ten children—Hamilton H., of Talahome, Tennessee; Virgil D., of Spring Valley; Mary E., now Mrs. Joseph P. Meighen, of Beaver township; Fannie C. Kelley, of Spring Valley; John M., deceased; Edward E., of Minneapolis; Florence N., now Mrs. Loren Nash, of Spring Valley township; Josie E., now Mrs. John Granahan, of Litchfield, Minnesota; Milton, of Minneapolis, and Ada A., of Spring Valley. Ada A. has taught school in this county for the past fifteen years. Mrs. Fannie C. Kelley is a teacher, an occupation she has followed for about forty years, largely in this and Houston counties, but also teaching for a time both public and private schools in Tennessee.

Charles H. Smith, president of the First State Bank of Spring Valley, was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, April 15, 1855, son of Nelson B. and Celestine A. Smith, both native Pennsylvanians, who came to Spring Valley in 1856, for five years conducted the Commercial House, and later went to Big Stone Lake where they conducted the Lake House, subsequently selling this and going to Madison, South Dakota, where the father and the son Charles H. had land and other interests. The father died some years ago and the mother still resides in Madison, South Dakota. Charles H. came to Fillmore county when a small child, graduated from the common and high schools of Spring Valley, and has since spent a large part of his life here. For more than ten years he was in the hotel business with his father at Spring Valley and at Big Stone Lake. Later he became interested in the vicinity of Madison, South Dakota, where he, together with his mother, at present owns 2,000 acres of land and where for twelve years he gave his entire time to the organization and upbuilding of a grist mill and a creamery business. Some years ago he returned to Spring Valley to assume charge of the W. H. Strong estate and attend to the general business and loans. Later he became president of the First State Bank of Spring Valley, which position he still occupies. He also retains his extensive business interests in South Dakota and spends a part of each year there. Mr. Smith was married September 23, 1893, to Homa A. Strong, and to them have been born three children. Pearl M. is a graduate of the Spring Valley high school, and of Miss Mill's school of oratory of St. Paul, having also taken a post graduate course at the Emmons school of expression of Chicago. William

H. graduated from the Spring Valley high school and from the Northern Military Academy of Highland Park, Ill., being now a student at Hamline University. Aurilla, a graduate of Spring Valley high school, is now a student at Ferry Hall, Lake Forest, Ill. After completing her course there, she will enter Wellesly College. As a public spirited man, Mr. Smith is treasurer of the Spring Valley Cemetery Association, president of the Spring Valley Automobile Club, and member of the Spring Valley Commercial Club. Religiously, he is president of the board of trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which body he and the members of his family have been liberal contributors. Fraternally he associates with Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M., and with Robert Morris Chapter.

**Anton M. Hanson**, a highly respected farmer of Bloomfield township, was born on the farm which he now occupies, March 28, 1870, son of Gilbert and Martha (Thorson) Hanson. He went to the country school near home, and as he advanced in his studies, came to Spring Valley, where he attended school two terms, after which he went to the Decorah Institute for several terms, and then took a term's work in the State Agricultural College at Minneapolis. Then he taught school three terms in district 111, and in 1896 assumed charge of the home farm which comprises 160 acres. He now carries on diversified farming, and keeps about thirty head of Shorthorn cattle, raises many Duroc Jersey hogs, for which he finds ready market, and keeps a number of horses of a good graded stock. Mr. Hanson is a progressive Republican, and has been elected to serve in some of the responsible public offices in the township. He has held various school offices, and is now serving his second term as town clerk. Among other offices of trust which he has occupied, are director of the Ostrander Creamery and secretary of the Ostrander and Cherry Grove Telephone Co. He is also treasurer of the Ostrander Lutheran church, of which he is an esteemed member. On November 25, 1897, Mr. Hanson married Emma Heimsness, daughter of Jens Heimsness of Beaver township, and three children have been born to bless their home: Alpha, Geneva and Theodore.

**Gilbert Hanson**, deceased, one of the pioneers of Fillmore county, was born in Norway, where he grew to manhood and was educated, later becoming a farmer. In 1854, he left the land of his birth and crossed the ocean to America, and in 1857 homesteaded the farm which is now occupied by his son Anton, in Bloomfield township, section thirty-three. During the Civil War, Mr. Hanson enlisted in Company I, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and fought for his adopted country until the close of

the struggle, after which he returned to his farm in this county. In 1864 he married Martha Thorson and to this union have been born ten children: Matilda, Lewis G., Josephine, Anton, Henry C., Clara (deceased), Oscar, Clara, John and Gina. Mrs. Hanson died July 26, 1894, and Mr. Hanson, January 29, 1896.

**William Warner Reynolds** was born March 23, 1863, in Greensboro county, North Carolina, son of William R. and Rachel (Hodgson) Reynolds, natives respectively of Grayson county, Virginia and North Carolina, who moved from North Carolina to Indiana and after living there about five years, came to Minnesota and settled in Sumner township, purchasing, in 1877, a farm on section twenty, Jordan, where they lived the remainder of their days, passing away within a month of each other during 1905. William W., the son, received a common school education and worked on the home farm with his father. When he was twenty-five years of age he went to North Dakota, where he took a homestead and remained for eleven years, carrying on general farming. In 1889 he returned to Minnesota and worked in Jordan township for three years, after which he moved to his present location in Sumner. Here he purchased the T. O. Kilborn mill which he has since continuously operated with the exception of the past severe winter. In connection with his milling interests, Mr. Reynolds also engages in farming, though on a small scale. He is affiliated with the Republican party and while never an office seeker, has been treasurer of the school district 124 for five years. On November 14, 1888, he married Elizabeth Shoultz, born October 6, 1867, and they are the parents of one son, Clarence Vernon, born February 1, 1891. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are held in high esteem throughout the community. Elizabeth (Shoultz) Reynolds was the daughter of Henry Shoultz and Anna (Dufford) Shoultz, natives of Pennsylvania. They came to this county in 1871, and engaged in farming in Fillmore township, where the father died in December, 1908. The mother is now living in Neilsville, Wis.

**O. A. Wallace**, progressive farmer residing in Sumner township, was born east of Spring Valley on January 3, 1870, son of Alhert and Emma Wallace, natives of Vermont and England respectively, who came to Minnesota in the early fifties and settled east of Spring Valley in Fillmore township, where they lived until 1880, the father being employed as carpenter. They are now residents of the state of Washington. O. A., the son, was given a common school education and later attended the high school in Spring Valley until he became sixteen years of age. In 1886 he secured employment as a grocery clerk, first in Wash-

burn's store and then in Molstad's store. Later he was clerk in the post office, after which he was employed by the James A. Smith Lumber Co. During the year of 1907, Mr. Wallace moved to Sumner township and bought 240 acres of land in section thirty-three and forty acres in Spring Valley township adjoining, where he carries on general farming. He raises shorthorn cattle for dairy purposes and disposes of cream at the Racine creamery. He also raises Percheron horses and Poland China hogs. In November, 1900, he married Louise Nickel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Nickel, both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have one daughter, Thelma, and they have also taken an orphan boy into their home. In political opinions, the subject of this sketch is independent and has never sought public office.

**D. N. St. John** was born in Otsego county, New York, October 16, 1837, son of James Harvey and Priscilla (Newcomb) St. John, natives of New York state, where they lived till 1844, when they came west and settled in Polk township, Washington county, Wisconsin, where the father homesteaded a claim, lived and raised his family. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Wisconsin and received his education in the common schools which he remembers as rather crudely prepared to give young America its life education. When he was thirty-one years of age he came to this county and purchased eighty acres in section thirty-two, Sumner township, which has since been his home, the house he first erected on his land being a part of the family dwelling of today. Since the first few years of preparing his farm for cultivation he has followed general farming, and now has a well tilled farm and a very cozy and comfortable home. Mr. St. John is a man of wide interests and has taken a lively interest in the political issues and in local improvement projects. In politics he is a Republican and has been chairman of the town the past six years, a position which he still occupies, having been a member of the town board more than twenty-five years. He has also been a member of the school board in district 126 many years. When dairying first came under consideration he felt that it was a means of further development for Minnesota and assisted in the organization of the Spring Valley Creamery of which he was for several years one of the managers. For the past twenty years he has been interested in the German American Fire Insurance Company of Spring Valley, of which he is now vice president and a director as well as local representative. On December 23, 1860, Mr. St. John was married to Laura Brown and to them were born nine children. Ada A. married E. W. Loucks and now lives in Saskatchewan, Canada. George E. lives in Burton, Washington. Lewis D. died in infancy. Emma died in infancy. Ellen



died when twenty-two years old. Ruth, who is now deceased, married James H. Richards. Bruce is at home. Charles B. is a restaurant owner in St. Paul, Minn. Laura Blanche married James A. Fisk, of Mankato, Minnesota. On June 24, 1890, the wife and mother died and on November 15, 1892, Mr. St. John married Caroline Hinze. To them have been born two children, Ernest Elias of Saskatchewan, Canada, and Altha Alice, who is at home.

**Frederick W. Jeché**, extensive land owner and successful farmer residing in Sumner township, was born in Fillmore township, April 20, 1869, son of Frederick and Freiert (Ernstine) Jeché, natives of Germany, who came to this county in 1867 and homesteaded in section twenty-nine, Fillmore township, where they made their home until the father's death in August, 1906, the mother now living with Mrs. Fred Freiheit, in Fillmore. Frederick W. attended school until sixteen years of age, after which he devoted his whole attention to working the home farm with his father. In 1897 he started for himself, by purchasing 260 acres in section twenty-four, Sumner, to which he has since added 120, now owning 380 acres. Here Mr. Jeché carried on scientific farming for many years and in his life's chosen occupation became most prosperous. He erected a fine house and good barns and also built a house and barns for his tenant, who now operates the farm. Mr. Jeché has practically retired from the activities of farming but still resides on the old home place. His cattle are Shorthorns; and the hogs, which number about fifty, are of the Poland China breed. He also raises horses for home use and for sale and owns several valuable Belgian brood mares. In political opinions, Mr. Jeché is independent, voting for principle rather than party. For two years he served as treasurer of school district 124. Alvina Freiheit of Fillmore township became his wife on December 5, 1895, and to them have been born Alma and Alfred, both of whom are students attending school and living at home. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**Henry Hockema** was born in Holland and came to the United States in 1860. He was married in Wisconsin to Elizabeth DuMez, and together they came to this county and purchased 180 acres in section fourteen, Sumner township. In 1871 he built the fine brick residence, which now stands; and he also erected barns and the necessary outbuildings, for the shelter of his stock and farm crops. When Mr. Hockema bought this farm it was somewhat improved, and as he toiled from year to year and prospered, it became one of the well kept places in the locality. He made a specialty of raising pure bred Holstein cattle and made two trips

back to his native country to purchase the nucleus of his herd. He was ever an industrious man, respected by the people with whom he had to deal, whether in business or social interests. He was a member of the school board and held other town offices. His death occurred on February 27, 1909, and his widow survived him for two years, then passed away October 14, 1911. They were parents of seven children.

**H. C. Hockema** was born in the house in which he now resides, January 3, 1883, son of Henry and Elizabeth (DuMez) Hockema. At the age of sixteen he completed his studies in the district schools and afterward devoted his time and attention to assisting his father with the farm work. He now farms 300 acres of land and raises Shorthorn cattle which he disposes of to the markets, breeds from sixty to seventy-five Duroc Jersey hogs each year and keeps twelve horses with which to carry on the farm work. He affiliates with the Republican party but has not served in public office. He married Matie, daughter of J. H. Fauver, on August 3, 1905, and to them have been born two children, Marjory and Henry.

**Charles Ellenberg** was born in Sumner township, February 15, 1861, son of Henry and Margaret (Peters) Ellenberg, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1853 and to Sumner township in 1860, settling on sections thirty-four and twenty-seven, the father dying in February, 1903, and the mother continuing to live on the home farm with her son Charles at the present time. Charles Ellenberg was educated in the common schools and after finishing his schooling assisted his parents on the farm. He now owns 200 acres of land in sections twenty-seven and thirty-four, Sumner, where he carries on general farming. In politics he is a Republican but has never aspired to public office, although he has served several years as road overseer. Being socially inclined he is a member of Racine Camp, Modern Woodmen of America. On October 16, 1888, he married Alice Williams, a daughter of Uriah Williams of Sumner and to them have been born three children. Henry Lawrence is a student at the Spring Valley schools. Roy Edwin is at home assisting his father. Sarah Margaret is a student at Racine, Minnesota. The family faith is that of the Evangelical church at Sumner.

**Uriah Williams** was born in Highland county, Ohio, May 7, 1831, son of Elias and Perninah Williams, natives of Ohio, who in later life moved to Missouri, where they remained to the end of their lives, the father dying at the advanced age of ninety-seven years. The subject of this sketch lived in Ohio till sixteen years

of age and then came west and located in Morgan county, Illinois, where he lived eight years. In 1855 he came to Sumner township and preempted a claim on sections twenty-three and sixteen. He worked out five years and in 1860 built a house of his land which at present forms a part of the home dwelling. In the earlier years he followed the usual idea of raising wheat, but after the wheat failures he has been interested to some extent in feeding cattle for the market. Mr. Williams has always voted with the Republican party. Although he has never sought public office he has been a member of the school board in district 123 for more than seventeen years, as well as chairman of the town board, supervisor and assessor, serving in various capacities until he finally refused to accept further official responsibilities. In April, 1860, he married Sarah Meriman, a native of Indiana and to them were born eight children. Frank Louis is a farmer in Sumner township. Henry lives in North Dakota. Minerva is deceased. Alice married Charles Ellenberg of Sumner township. A. J. is at the home place with his father. Ralph lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mary Agnes and Clara May are deceased. Mrs. Williams died in February, 1883.

**Albert E. Doten**, one of the successful farmers of Sumner township, was born in Wisconsin, September 8, 1859, son of Edward and Julia (Darling) Doten. When he was five years of age his parents moved to Massachusetts where his father enlisted in the Fifty-eighth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and where the family remained while the father was in the war. After his return they came west once more and settled in Sumner township, this county, purchasing land in section twenty-two, where the father and mother lived till 1892 when they moved to Spring Valley where the father died and where the mother is still living. The subject of this sketch received his early education in the common schools and later in the high schools of Chatfield and Spring Valley. Having completed his high school work he entered the Minnesota State University, and took the four years' classical course. Thus prepared, he taught school several years in Fillmore and Martin counties, this state, as well as in South Dakota. While engaged as a teacher he also took advantage of his opportunities in getting in possession of valuable land which at that time was available under the homestead laws. In 1901 he purchased the present family home in Sumner township, now owning 200 acres of valuable land. Mr. Doten is a fine type of the modern educated farmer, and is ever ready to work for the good and advancement of the community. A Republican in politics, he has served in his present position of town clerk for the past eight years, and has been clerk of district 122 for nine years. In 1893 he married



J. F. BALLINGER AND FAMILY

Clara Wooldridge, born November 8, 1862, daughter of Edward Wooldridge. Mr. and Mrs. Doten have six children. Helen is a student in the Spring Valley schools. Laurence, Agnes, Harlan, Olive and Stanley are all at home.

**C. O. Comstock** was born in Michigan, May 3, 1831, son of Milo and Peace (Perry) Comstock. He received his schooling in his native state and assisted his parents on the home farm. As a boy he had a desire to see the western country and early in life determined to satisfy this longing. In 1877 he went to Texas and while there saw and still relates with much enthusiasm the events of the early days on what was then the western frontier. In 1854 he came to Minnesota and secured 160 acres on sections twenty-nine and thirty-two, where he has since made his home. In politics he has always been a Whig and a Republican but has never sought public offices, although he consented to serve as town supervisor one term. He was married in February, 1855, to Katherine Carter, who died in 1887. To this union were born five children of whom four are living. Clara Jane married James Richards and now lives in California. Roby Ann married Henry Parker and lives in California. Addison J. is in business in Rochester, Minn. W. H. is at home and takes care of his father in his declining years. Joseph E. died of typhoid fever in 1876.

**W. H. Comstock** was born on his father's farm in Sumner township, April 13, 1864, and attended the common schools of the county until about eighteen years of age. Then for a number of years he continued to work on the home place for his father. He has here made his home to the present time but has been in the Southwest for long periods at different times. In 1902 he went to Texas and New Mexico and in the latter state took up a homestead which he held long enough to secure a clear title and then worked some years. In politics he is a Republican but never sought public office.

**James F. Ballinger** was born in Sauk county, Wisconsin, February 26, 1866, son of Ain and Minerva (Bailey) Ballinger, who are at present both residents of Wisconsin. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Wisconsin and received his education in the common schools until he was about nineteen years of age. He then came to Minnesota and worked out for H. E. King of Sumner township for ten years. In 1895 he bought land in sections nineteen and thirty, in Sumner township. He has added to this from time to time till he now owns 440 acres in Sumner and eighty acres in Mower county as well as 400 acres in western Wisconsin. He has made nearly all the improvements on

his place, and owns a fine equipment of farm buildings, having a different set of buildings for each of the three farms into which his land is divided. He farms all his land in Sumner himself except 200 acres, and though following general farming, he keeps a large number of Shorthorn cattle and raises from sixty to seventy-five Poland China hogs annually. He also raises Percheron horses for his farm purposes and for the market. On December 25, 1894, he married Alta King, daughter of H. E. King, and to them have been born four children. Earl is a student in the Spring Valley high school. Homer, Roy and Ozro are all at home. Mr. Ballinger is a member of the Methodist church of Racine, Minnesota. In politics he is a Republican and has been director in school district 126 for more than fifteen years and also constable, though he has never sought offices and would prefer not to accept them. He is very socially inclined but has never joined any fraternities. He is a stockholder and director in the Racine creamery; a stockholder and director in the Racine State Bank, and a stockholder in the First National Bank, at Spring Valley.

Charles L. Thurber was born in Conneaut, Ohio, July 1, 1863, son of Lewis and Harriett (Wright) Thurber, the former of whom went to the front with the troops in the Civil War and died in the South in 1865. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Ohio and later in the Chatfield high school. He first came to Minnesota and to Chatfield in 1880 but returned to Ohio where he remained one year and then again came to Chatfield where he has since made his home. On leaving school he began clerking in Milo White's store where he was employed for more than five years. At the end of that time he began business for himself, forming a partnership with two other men in the firm of Silsbee, Thurber & Atchison, which continued to do a general merchandise business till 1895. After the company closed its business Mr. Thurber became a traveling representative for the Albert Lea Insurance Company. In 1897 this company underwent a reorganization and Mr. Thurber, not satisfied with the new plan which the company adopted, left their employ. At the suggestion and request of several Chatfield business men he outlined and later perfected the organization of what has since been known as the Security Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Chatfield. Mr. Thurber was made secretary and assumed the active management of the business which from its inception has been most successful. They are now doing business in nearly every state in the Union and have a large number of representatives in various parts of the country. After the assured success of the Security it was determined to form another company for

the convenience of those who were not in sympathy with a mutual company. In 1909 the Minnesota Fire Insurance Company of Chatfield was formed and Mr. Thurber became vice-president. He married, in 1886, Nina Merrill and to them have been born three children. Orrin Merrill has been acting as state agent for the Chatfield Fire Insurance Companies at Fargo, North Dakota, but has recently accepted a position as manager of "Fire Prevention," published by the Western Underwriters, of Chicago, Ill. Lewis Myers is in the state auditor's office in St. Paul. Herschel Putnam is a student in the Chatfield high school. In politics Mr. Thurber is independent. He was for several years a member of the Chatfield city council and clerk of the school board. In 1910 he became candidate on the Temperance ticket for member of legislature. He entered the contest rather late and gave but little time to campaign work but nevertheless received a large vote, lacking less than 200 votes for election. Mr. Thurber is a member of the Blue Lodge and Chapter in the Masonic order, also of the Modern Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, Yoemen and Good Samaritans.

**John Chermak**, postmaster of Chatfield since 1898, was born in Olmsted county in 1858, son of John and Veronica (Teska) Chermak, the former of whom is deceased. Early in life the subject of this biography became very studious and by close application to books acquired a good education in the common schools of his home county. For some time after completing his studies he was employed as a teacher, after which he accepted a position with Frank Tesco as clerk in his hardware store, remaining for ten years. Of strong political convictions, he adheres to the principles endorsed by the Republican party and has served as justice of the peace and also as member of the school board. Fraternally he has affiliated himself with the Masonic order, the Modern Samaritans and the Modern Woodmen, in which organizations he is highly esteemed. In 1887 Carrie Armstrong became his wife. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Chatfield.

**John McCallum** was born September 3, 1866, in Balfour, Shropshire, Scotland, son of William and Elizabeth (Taylor) McCallum, who spent the span of the years in the old country. He grew to manhood in Scotland and there attended school. In 1887, he came to America and arrived in Minnesota, April 18. For several years after coming to Fillmore county, Mr. McCallum worked for William Hutton, and in 1902 bought 120 acres in section thirty-one, Jordan township, where he carries on general farming, together with stockraising and dairying, keeping about twenty head of Shorthorn cattle, fifty Shropshire sheep

and many hogs. He also owns eight good farm horses, four of which are registered Clydsdales. Politically Mr. McCallum is a Republican. He is serving as town clerk as he has for for eight years past; and has been treasurer of school district ninety-seven for six years. Fraternally he is affiliated with the A. F. & A. M. and A. O. U. W. at Chatfield. On October 22, 1896, he was united in marriage with Eva May, daughter of David and Mary C. Bumgarner of Fillmore township. This union has been blessed with five children: William David, Donald, Mary Elizabeth, Margaret Helen and John, all of whom attend school in district ninety-seven. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Frederick G. Stoudt was born in Hastings, Minn., August 18, 1876, son of John and Minnie (Otte) Stoudt, both of whom are now deceased. He was educated in the public schools of Hastings and then took employment in the "Gazette" office in that city, where he remained seven years, thoroughly learning his trade as a printer and becoming entirely familiar with the newspaper business. He then came to Chatfield and with E. F. Harnish bought the "Chatfield News," which was later combined with the "Democrat" and has since been published as the "News-Democrat." In 1909 Mr. Stoudt became cashier of the First National Bank of Chatfield and since that time he has not been actively connected with editorial work, though he still retains his newspaper interests. In politics he is an independent Republican, and has served as city treasurer two years. He is treasurer and director of the Minnesota Fire Insurance Company and a director of the Security Mutual Fire Insurance Company and of the Merchants' National Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Fargo, N. D. Being socially inclined, Mr. Stoudt is a member of the A. F. & A. M. of Chatfield, clerk of the Chatfield M. W. A., corresponding secretary of the Chatfield B. A. Y. and treasurer of the Chatfield Commercial Club. In 1901 he married Susie Farrington and to them has been born one daughter—Louise. Mr. Stoudt is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

J. C. Brush was born in St. Albans, Vt., January 25, 1831, son of Josiah Brush. He grew to manhood in Vermont, received his education there and when twenty years of age went to New York state, locating near Pottsdam. He here followed general work for three years. At the end of that time he went to Rockford, Ill., where he remained two years. In 1857 he came to Minnesota and took up work in Winona, where he was for some years employed by the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. He afterward drove stage and had some thrilling experiences while



doing duty as a driver carrying the United States mails. For some years he drove from Winona to La Crosse, Wis., and also from Winona to Chatfield and from Winona to Rochester. In 1885 he came to Sumner township, this county, and has since resided here. He located on a farm near Hamilton and followed general farming till 1891, when he moved to the village of Hamilton and has since lived there. He now lives a practically retired life. On December 26, 1861, he married Sarah Hoff, a daughter of D. S. Hoff, formerly of Fillmore village, where the Hoff hotel had a wide reputation in the early days. To this union have been born five children: William J. is in Lisbon, N. D.; Edna F. married Frank Calander, of Sumner; Hannah E. married George Lyman; Jennie E. married Frank Hoppin; Nelson E. is now in Washington. In politics Mr. Brush is a Republican, and has been school clerk and has held other minor offices.

William Elder, now deceased, was one of the early settlers of Fillmore county. He was born on the plains of Cranna, Parish of Marnoch, near Aberchirder, in Banffshire, Scotland, on June 8, 1831, his father's name also being William. He spent his childhood in his native land, received a good education and in young manhood came to the United States and settled in Wisconsin, where he lived some years. In 1856 he came to this county and settled in Preston township, where he purchased 160 acres of land from the government. He erected a log house about twelve by sixteen feet and broke and worked the land with such energy and skill that he was enabled to add to his original purchase until he finally owned 296 acres, the greater part of which was under a high state of cultivation. When the proper time arrived he erected a substantial dwelling and other buildings, which stand today a monument of his thrift and success. Though he prospered in the accumulation of this world's goods, he was a devout Christian man and spared no labor for himself in any effort which he thought might benefit the church. For many years he was Sunday school superintendent and at the time of his death was elder in the Scotland church of Preston township. On November 10, 1856, Mr. Elder was married at Kenosha, Wis., to Agnes Mitchell, who was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, October 5, 1827, daughter of William and Elizabeth Mitchell, and came to America in 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Elder were blessed with two children: Ada J., who is now Mrs. Alexander McKay, was born January 29, 1860; George A. was born June 16, 1863, and now resides on the old home place in Preston township. He married Minne B. Henderson, who died February 2, 1907. William Elder was one of the sturdy old characters of Scotch blood so rugged and true to his own strict requirements that to know him was to respect both

him and the principles for which he stood. His death occurred May 22, 1906, and he was survived only a short time by his wife, her death occurring on April 14, 1908.

**Alexander McKay**, a well-known and respected citizen of Amherst and Preston townships, was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, August 29, 1857. His father, Peter McKay, was a native of Parish Port of Monteith, Perthshire, Scotland, and son of Alexander McKay. During the year of 1856 the father emigrated from his home country and came to America, locating in the town of Bradford, Rock county, Wis. For six years he and his family lived in that locality, after which they moved to Minnesota and settled on section thirty, Amherst township, this county. In district forty-six, Preston township, Alexander, subject of this sketch, attended school and acquired his education. He grew to manhood on the home farm and worked for his father. He now owns 330 acres of land which borders on the town line between Preston and Amherst, and carries on general farming operations. His farm is well equipped with good buildings and modern machinery and his fine dwelling is both comfortable and commodious. Politically he is an independent voter, and that he is well fitted to occupy public offices is shown by his service as supervisor of the township, school clerk in district forty-six for nine years, present school director and justice of the peace, in which latter office he is serving his sixth year. He is also a member of the board of directors for the Harmony Fire Insurance Company. For thirty-four years Mr. McKay has been a member of the Presbyterian church. On January 18, 1883, he married Ada, daughter of William and Agnes (Mitchell) Elder, and to this union have been born six children: Harry, of Montana; Flora, who married A. L. Turner, of Amherst; Clarence, Edna, Agnes and Bernice.

**J. L. Colby**, of Spring Valley, county commissioner since 1908, was born in Forestville township on May 16, 1859, son of James L. and Elmina A. (Lewis) Colby, natives of Vermont and New York, respectively. He acquired his education in the district schools and after completing his studies was employed by various farmers in the community and also on the home place. Upon attaining his majority he bought sixty acres in section twenty-eight, Forestville, and there began agricultural operations on his own responsibility. He developed his land and erected needed buildings: and gradually as he grew more prosperous, added to his original possessions until he owned 200 acres, a portion of which had originally been part of the old homestead. For eighteen years Mr. Colby carried on blacksmithing in a shop which he built on his farm, and it is worthy of mention that, though he had never

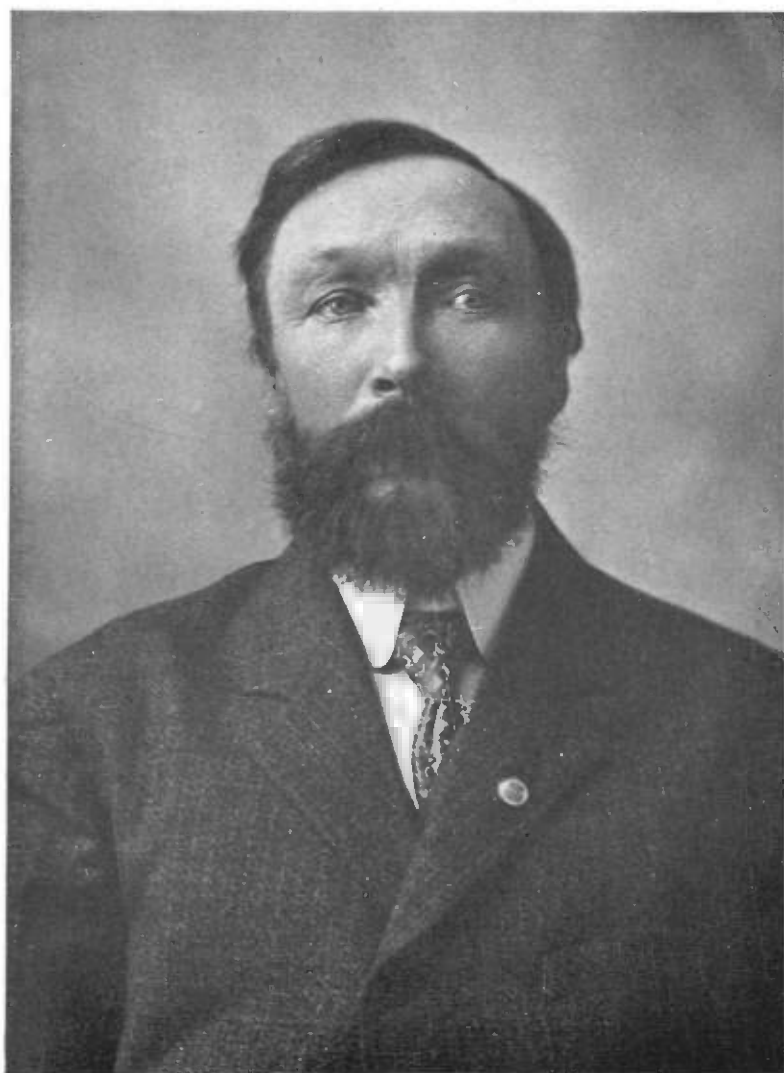
been taught the business, he was considered the best horseshoer in that section of the county. So as the years succeeded each other he toiled at farming and blacksmithing and grew more prosperous, but in 1906 decided to leave the farm and move to Spring Valley, where he now resides. For three years after coming to Spring Valley, Mr. Colby was local agent for the Standard Oil Company, and he now is manager of Spring Valley Electric Light & Investment Company. While living on his farm he served as town clerk, justice of the peace and constable. For years Mr. Colby took an active interest in dairying and at different periods owned stock in various creameries and cheese factories in the county. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M. In 1881 he was united in marriage with Sarah Candace Hamlin, a daughter of Alonzo L. Hamlin, of Bloomfield. Though Mr. and Mrs. Colby have never been blessed with children of their own, they are justly proud of three children whom they have taken into their home, cared for and educated.

James L. Colby and Elmira A. Lewis, his wife, were natives of Vermont and New York, respectively, and came to Minnesota in 1855, locating in Forestville township. There Mr. Colby bought 160 acres of government land, on which he founded his home. For some time he and his good wife lived in a sod shanty, which was later replaced by a more comfortable house built of logs. Like other early settlers, this estimable couple experienced hardships and privations which were overcome with the true pioneer spirit, and they toiled on courageously, overcoming difficulties and meeting many emergencies. As time went by the husband built a good frame house and comfortable barns and other needed out-buildings, and all their efforts were crowned with success. Mr. Colby was a "gentleman from the old school" and was always ready and willing to render assistance and service to his fellow men. For thirty-five years he was postmaster at Cherry Grove, this name being derived from a grove of cherry trees planted by Mr. Colby on his farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Colby were born five children: Eugenia A., wife of Robert L. Jurisch, is deceased. George P. is a lecturer and orange grower at Lake Helen, Fla. Julia M. is deceased. J. L. lives in Spring Valley. Martin E. is deceased. He was formerly a deputy sheriff and collector in South Dakota and was shot by an Indian at Sisseton when carrying out official duties. Mr. Colby passed away on May 19, 1893.

Samuel Crawford Kellogg, a respected citizen of Spring Valley, was born at Springfield, Erie county, Pa., May 15, 1834, son of Reuben and Eleanor (Crawford) Kellogg. During the early years of his boyhood, the subject of this biography attended the village

school, and later completed his education in a private school. When twenty-one years of age, he left his old home and went to Burlington, Ill., where he was employed at farming for a year. In 1856 he came to Minnesota and took a claim in Spring Valley township, which he later sold and then purchased another farm, eighty acres of which are now within the corporation limits of the city. The following year, after purchasing this farm, Mr. Kellogg erected a substantial house, and made many improvements. He followed general diversified farming until 1891, when he moved into Spring Valley, and also moved with him the house which he had erected in 1856 and in which he and his estimable wife have resided the fifty-three years of their married life. In 1894, Mr. Kellogg began supplying the residents of Spring Valley with milk and continued in this business for five years. On December 22, 1858, Armanda Mantor became his wife. She was a daughter of James and Cenia Mantor, of Pennsylvania, who came west and settled in Dodge county, giving their name to the town of Mantorville. To Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg five children have been born. Carrie is now Mrs. W. L. Kilhan, of St. Paul, and they are the parents of two children, Grace and Fern. Kirkland M. married Hilly Payne, and they have two children, Maude and Alvah. They live in Montana. Warren Milford also lives in Montana. Grace married Alfred Parker, and they have one child, Marion. Their home is at St. Paul. Alvah C. is superintendent of schools at Wapato, Wash. He married Lillian Barnes. Mr. Kellogg and his wife attend the Congregational church, of which they are honored members. Mr. Kellogg's political views are those advanced by the Republican party.

James McConville, a retired farmer now residing in Wykoff village, was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, on October 28, 1852, son of Henry and Catherine (Morris) McConville. He was educated in the common schools, but having at four years of age lost his father he early in life assumed a man's place in the home. For forty-six years he carried on general farming in Fillmore township and made a specialty of raising stock. His cattle were pure bred Jerseys and he preferred Chester White hogs to other breeds. He owned 240 acres of land, which he disposed of in 1902, when he moved to Wykoff that his children might have better school advantages and because of failing health. Mr. McConville was married on March 13, 1884, to Sabina Wright, and to them two children have been born: Edith, now Mrs. S. D. Baker, of Jordan township, and Myra, a teacher who lives at home. In political convictions the subject of this sketch has independent ideas and votes for principle rather than for party. He has served on the school board for many years in district



NELS STORELEE

101 and has the esteem of all with whom he has had business dealings. Mr. McConville well remembers the Indian scare of 1862, and relates many interesting anecdotes regarding it. His brother Henry was in the Army of the Potomac and was captured at Cold Harbor, after which he was confined in Andersonville prison. His brother John went to Mississippi to work on the levee in 1859, was compelled to work on a river boat and was finally drafted into the Confederate Army. Later he was captured by Union troops at Island 10, after which he joined the Union Navy and was in the battle of Mobile Bay. The boat on which he was fighting was blown up by torpedo, and after this he went to Texas and became a ranger, helping to rout out the "bad men" on the frontier. He has since been lost trace of.

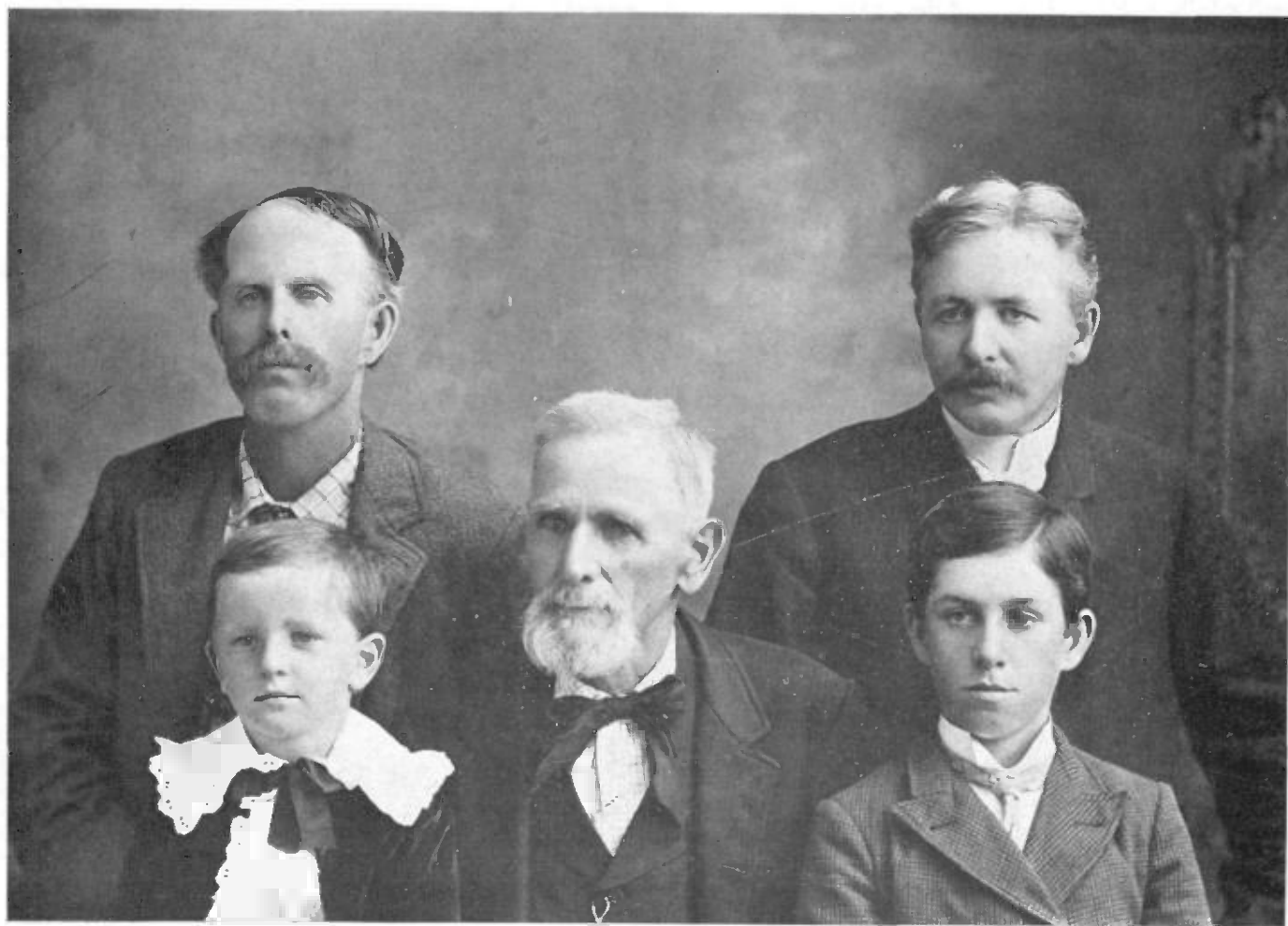
**Henry McConville** and Catherine Morris, his wife, were natives of the Emerald Isle, who came to the United States in 1840 and settled in New York City, where they worked for some time at their occupation as weavers. In 1848 they came west to Wisconsin and settled in Walworth county, where Mr. McConville engaged in general farming. During the year of 1856 they moved to Minnesota and located in Jordan township, this county, where the husband and father "laid" a Revolutionary soldier's land warrant. He and his estimable wife underwent many privations, and were among the pioneers of the county. To them were born five children: Catherine was the eldest. John was a Civil War veteran. Henry also enlisted in the Civil War and was captured and confined in Andersonville prison. He died February 17, 1899. Mary was the youngest child. James is the only surviving member of the family. Henry McConville lost his life on December 19, 1856, being frozen to death but eighty rods from a neighbor's house. He was on his way home from Chatfield and lost his bearings in a severe storm. His widow died April 20, 1907.

**Nels Storelee**, representative farmer, living in Carrolton township, was born in Nast, Hollingdahl, Norway, November 5, 1853. When three years of age he came to America with his parents, Ole Olson Storelee and Jerden (Nelson) Storelee, who located in Rock county, Wisconsin. There the father was employed by different farmers for seven years, and at the end of that period began farming for himself. In 1864 the family moved to Minnesota and settled in Carrolton township, where the father bought a claim in section thirty-five and here spent the rest of his life. His death occurred in May, 1884, and his wife died in December, 1877. Nels, subject of this sketch, received his education in the common schools of this country and has since been engaged in general farming. He now owns 410 acres and makes a specialty

of raising pure bred Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. Mr. Storelee married Mary Oppgard, who bore him four children: Josie married Oscar Peterson and has a daughter. Marian Lydia, Olga and Oscar are at home. Mrs. Mary Storelee died in 1896 and January 8, 1898, Mr. Storelee married Sarah (Lawston) Larson, and to this marriage were born three children: Selma, Milton and Burnice. Mr. Storelee has served as supervisor of the town and has been chairman of the school board for many years. He is a stockholder in the Farmers & Merchants' State Bank of Preston and a director in the Lanesboro Canning Co. He is also treasurer of the Union Prairie church, of which his family are communicants.

**William A. Hall** was born in Smithfield, R. I., September 26, 1855, son of Francis and Margaret (Shaunnesy) Hall. His mother died when he was a small boy and he with his father came to Minnesota in 1863 and settled in Beaver township. Here he grew up and attended the country school, later attending the high school in Spring Valley. When twenty-one years of age he went in partnership with his father and they farmed together till 1900, when they moved to Spring Valley. After six years' residence in Spring Valley William A. Hall returned to the farm in Beaver township, where he still resides, and took up the duties of his farm. He now owns 400 acres, some of which he rents to neighbors, and has a large pleasant home and an excellent complement of barns and other buildings necessary for the proper conduct of a large farm. Before the occurrence, in 1877, of an unfortunate accident with a frightened horse, in which Mr. Hall was severely injured, he gave much attention to the raising of stock, formerly keeping some 100 cattle and milking about sixty cows. He has always been interested in public affairs and has been treasurer of Beaver six years and clerk of school district 143 for over twelve years. He is one of the original stockholders in the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery of Chester, Ia., and in the Farmers' Insurance Company of Bloomfield. He is a member of the Etta Union church. On April 1, 1880, he was married to Eliza S. Nichols, a daughter of Neal Nichols, one of the pioneers of this county. To this union have been born six children: Grace died at five years of age. Etta M. is at home. Emma J. is a teacher in Blue Earth City, Minn. Francis is at home. Alden N. is a student at the Spring Valley high school. May is a teacher at Glenco, Minn.

**E. W. Thayer**, former postmaster in Spring Valley and one of the prominent residents of that city, was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1847, son of Edmund S. and Permelia



FRANCIS HALL, SONS AND GRANDSONS



Thayer, now deceased. His early life was spent in acquiring a good education in the country schools and in the academy at Kingsville, Ohio. When he was seventeen years of age he began to assist his father with the farm work and remained in this occupation for the four succeeding years, teaching school during the winter months. In 1869 he came west to Minnesota and located in Spring Valley, where he was engaged for a period of time in farming, after which he became a contractor and builder, carrying on this business for a number of years. In connection with this he was engaged in the lumber business as one of the firm of Anderson & Thayer, later Cummings & Thayer. In 1899 Mr. Thayer served as deputy clerk of the county court and moved to Preston, where he lived for two and one-half years, after which he became postmaster of Spring Valley. Orinda E. Allard, daughter of Hiram Allard, of Vermont, became the wife of Mr. Thayer, and to them three children have been born: Myrtie M. graduated from the Minnesota State University, also completed a post graduate course in that institution, is now principal of the Spring Valley high school and lives at home with her parents. Albert W. is married and makes his home in Los Angeles, where he is engaged in clerical work. Marian E. died in 1899. Politically Mr. Thayer upholds the tenets of the Republican party, and for fifteen years has been an active member of the village council. In former years he took part in the party councils and is held in high regard by the residents of his home town and by a wide circle of acquaintances throughout the county. His beautiful home is located in the central part of the city and is one of the fine residences in Spring Valley.

**Neal Nichols** was born in Herkimer county, New York, October 30, 1820, and there received his education and grew to manhood. In 1840 he married Hannah Shephard, born June 22, 1821. They moved to Battle Creek, Mich., lived there two years, then came west to Waukon, Iowa, and there made their home for two years. They came to this county in 1856 and settled on the southeast quarter of section nine, Beaver township, and there lived until the death of Mr. Nichols, December 13, 1879. They raised a family of eleven sons and one daughter. Mrs. Nichols died November 4, 1894, and is buried beside her husband in the Etna cemetery.

**Francis Hall**, deceased, was a native of Canada and lived many years in Quebec. He later went to the state of Rhode Island and was there married to Margaret Shaunnesy, a native of Ireland, who died in 1861. In 1863 Mr. Hall came to Minnesota and bought land in section eleven, Beaver township, and here began farming.

He was naturally a leader and came to the fore in political and church affairs, being elected to the legislature of 1877 and 1878. He was a Republican in politics and held many minor offices in his township and locality. He was the father of two sons, William A. and Alden T. A. T. Hall is now a druggist in St. Paul. Francis Hall lived on his farm in Beaver till 1900 and then moved to Spring Valley, where he died May 17, 1901. For his second wife Mr. Hall married Margaret Cookman. She died in January, 1898. She was a good wife and could not have done more for Mr. Hall's children had they been her own.

**E. D. Kellogg** was a native of Warren county, New York, born in 1833, and reared to agricultural pursuits. He moved from that state to Minnesota in the fall of 1855, and immediately located a farm in section one, Fillmore township. He was a member of the board of supervisors, being chairman a part of the time. In the fall of 1859 he was joined in matrimony with Elizabeth Crowell, a native of Ohio. They have had ten children. Mr. Kellogg died November 26, 1911. His wife died September 6, 1910.

**Willard S. Carson**, a highly respected citizen of Jordan township, was born here on January 20, 1859. His parents were Nathan A. and Mary A. (Pratt) Carson, natives of Maine, where they made their homes until 1854, then coming to Minnesota and locating in Forestville township. Three years later they moved to Jordan and bought 120 acres in section twenty-three, there engaging in farming industries. The father erected the substantial brick residence which now stands and made other improvements. His death occurred February 17, 1896, at the age of sixty-eight. Willard, the son acquired a common school education, carrying on his studies until twenty-one years of age, after which he left school and devoted his entire time and energy to assisting his father on the home farm. He purchased the old homestead from his father, and to this has added until he now owns 325 acres. He follows general farming, raises Jersey hogs and Shropshire sheep and keeps twenty-five head of Jersey cattle for dairy purposes, disposing of cream to the Chatfield Creamery, in which he is a stockholder and was one of its organizers. Mr. Carson farms his entire property and lives in the brick residence which his father built in 1881. He is a staunch supporter of the principles endorsed by the Prohibitionist party and has served as clerk of school district 100. He was a delegate from Fillmore county to the state Prohibition convention held in Assembly Hall, Minneapolis, July 4 and 5, 1912. On June 16, 1898, he married Anna Kellogg, born October 27, 1860, daughter of E. D. Kellogg and Elizabeth (Crowell) Kellogg, early settlers of Fillmore township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Carson two children have been born: Frances Willard, born May 13, 1899, and Ruth Elizabeth, born February 15, 1901, both of whom are at home. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and are respected members of that organization.

George Winfield Heine, a prominent resident of Jordan township, was born in Reading, Pa., on November 13, 1857, son of George Washington and Mary Ann (Ege) Heine, also natives of that state, who, when the subject of this sketch was but three years of age, moved to a farm, where they lived until 1875. The father, who was a mill owner, died in April, 1890. The mother died September 15, 1911. George W., the subject of this sketch, received his preliminary education in the district schools of Berks county, Pennsylvania, then entered the academy at Boyerstown, Pa., completing his studies at the seminary at Friedensburg, Pa. Then he taught school one term in Earl township and three terms in Colebrookdale township, both in Berks county. He later accepted a position in Plumboge mine at Byers Station, in Chester county, and after leaving that place worked in a blast furnace in Pottstown for three years. For a period of time he made his home in the capital city, Harrisburg, but was obliged to leave because of illness in his family. He then went back to Pottstown and for three years was employed in a rolling mill, where he was rapidly promoted and eventually occupied a responsible position. Leaving Pottstown he went to Phoenixville, there working in the mills until 1885. During that year Mr. Heine came to Fillmore county, where for three years he rented land. In 1888 he bought 220 acres in section thirty-one, Jordan township, and entered a stock farming business. He raises about 100 Lincoln sheep yearly, keeping about forty head of Shorthorn cattle for general dairy purposes. He also raises good farm horses. In 1896 Mr. Heine sold this farm and purchased 240 acres in section nineteen, Jordan township. He also owns ninety-five acres in section six, Fillmore township. He carries on the same industries which occupied his time and attention on the other farm. His sheep are of the Shropshire breed, the hogs Duroc-Jerseys, the horses Belgians. On this farm he has made many improvements, erecting good outbuildings for the shelter of his stock and farm products. On April 25, 1886, Mr. Heine was united in marriage with Laura Mower, daughter of John Mower, a pioneer of this county. This marriage has been blessed with: Louis, now of Dubuque, Iowa; William, at home; Irving, Dubuque, Iowa; Mary, a student in the Spring Valley schools; George and Jerry, students at home, and one who died in infancy. Mr. Heine is an independent Republican and has held the office of supervisor of the township for two

terms and clerk of the school board in district 124 for sixteen years. He is chairman of the board of directors of the Farmers' Store in Spring Valley, stockholder in the First National Bank, of Spring Valley, stockholder in the Frankson & Christianson Manufacturing Co., of Spring Valley, and stockholder in the Spring Valley Electric Light Company. He is also president of the Washington Horse Breeders' Association and stockholder in the Jordan Valley Horse Company. He is affiliated with the A. F. & A. M. and the M. W. A. at Spring Valley.

**G. R. Shipton**, a prominent citizen of Spring Valley township, was born October 18, 1859. His parents, G. R. and Marietta (Bear) Shipton, were natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Minnesota in 1855 and located in Fillmore township. They were one of the pioneer families and endured many hardships incident to pioneer life. The father was "fife major" of Company A, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry from the year of 1861 until 1863, being discharged for disability. He then returned to his farm in Fillmore and there lived until 1891, when he moved to Spring Valley, passing away on October 20, 1892. The wife and mother lives in Spring Valley. The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm and went to the little log schoolhouse and sat on slab benches, there acquiring his education. When he was about eighteen years of age he finished his studies and was employed by his father. He remained in this capacity until twenty-four years of age, when he assumed charge of the home farm, which he operated for many years. This farm, consisting of 223½ acres in Jordan township, 70 acres in Sumner, 43½ in Fillmore and 10½ in Spring Valley, he has sold and will move into one which he has purchased in sections nineteen and twenty, Spring Valley township. Mr. Shipton is especially interested in raising blooded stock. He keeps about thirty head of Guernsey cattle and disposes of the cream to the Spring Valley Creamery. He raises annually about 100 Shropshire sheep and the same number of Duroc-Jersey hogs. His poultry is pure bred Barred Plymouth Rocks and he owns a fine incubator and brooder, raising from 500 to 600 chickens yearly. Politically he is affiliated with the Republican party, and that he is particularly fitted to serve in public office has been proven by his being elected town supervisor for three years, chairman of the school board in district 124 for fifteen years, chairman of church board for eighteen years and justice of the peace in Jordan for one year. Mr. Shipton has in his possession the old bass drum which went with the Second Minnesota through the war, also many other interesting relics which his father brought home. He was married November 18, 1883, to Ella Lee, born September 25, 1864,



MR. AND MRS. H. A. DOUGLASS

and their marriage has been blessed with five children: R. L., R. R., R. C., George A. and W. H. R. L., R. C. and W. H. are at home. R. R. lives in Pine county. George A. died in infancy. The family worships at the Methodist Episcopal church

H. A. Douglass, a progressive farmer residing in Bloomfield township, was born in Clinton county, New York, July 1, 1834, son of J. A. and Sarah (Manning) Douglass, natives of New York, who came to Iowa in 1858, where they lived for one year, and then moved to Minnesota and located in Fillmore county, where the father died in 1893, the mother having passed away in 1872. H. A. was educated in the common schools, and when twenty-two years of age began farming, later working in a lumber and flour mill in Iowa. In 1864 he came to this county and settled in Bloomfield township, where he farmed until 1872 when he went to Iowa, remaining there for twelve years. In 1884 he again returned to Minnesota and purchased forty acres in section twenty-six, Bloomfield township, where he has since resided. For many years he carried on general farming, but in 1901 rented his land and now lives practically a retired life. He is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Prohibitionist party, and for two years has served as town assessor for Bloomfield. December 25, 1860, Mr. Douglass married Ellen Farnsworth, and to them were born three children: W. H., born March 14, 1862, is now a real estate and insurance man of Chicago. He married Mary McKaller. Carrie, born January 18, 1864, died April 24, 1867. Agnes, born February 26, 1866, died December 5, 1871. The wife and mother passed away in 1873, and on January 24, 1879, Mr. Douglass married Amelia M. Hitchcock, of Champlain, Clinton county, N. Y., born July 18, 1836, daughter of D. C. Hitchcock, a farmer who died in his seventies. The family faith is that of the Etna Union church, formerly the Methodist. Mr. Douglass has been elder of this church since its organization, and for several years was one of its trustees. He has served as Sunday school superintendent and has been a Bible class teacher for a number of years.

Dr. C. W. Woodruff was born in Minnesota October 17, 1876, son of H. C. and Polly R. Woodruff. He received his elementary education in the common schools and the Elgin high school. He later spent three years in the study of medicine at the Minnesota State University and graduated from Rush Medical School June 21, 1901. On April 11, 1902, he passed the state board examination and was admitted to practice in Minnesota. He first located in Wykoff with Dr. Campbell and practiced there for three and one-half years. He sold his business to Dr. Dunn in 1905 and

came to Chatfield, where he has built up an extensive practice. In political inclinations Dr. Woodruff is a Republican, but has never sought political preferment. He is a member of the Houston County Medical Society, the Minnesota State Medical Association and also of the American Medical Association. He is chairman of the Chatfield Board of Health, is the local United States pension examiner and likewise the examiner for a large number of life insurance societies. Being of a social temperament he has allied himself with Meridan Lodge, No. 56, A. F. & A. M., North Star Chapter, No. 11, R. A. M., Home Commandery, No. 5, K. T., all of Chatfield; Rochester Lodge, No. 1091, B. P. O. E., and the Modern Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, Yoemen, United Workmen, Odd Fellows, Equitable Fraternal Union and Modern Brotherhood, all of Chatfield. In 1902 he married Dora Dunn, and to them have been born two children: Helen, born in 1903, and Paul in 1905.

**Hans Fjelstad** was born in Norway on November 9, 1865, son of Hans and Carrie Fjelstad, who spent their lives in that country. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native land, there attended school and became a farmer. In 1892 he came to America, landing at New York, after which he proceeded west to Minnesota and located in this county. For about five years after his arrival here he worked out for different farmers near Harmony, after which he went to York and bought eighty acres in section seven, where he has since carried on general farming. As he has worked and grown more prosperous he has added to his original possessions, and at present owns 160 acres, all in section seven. Together with his farming industries Mr. Fjelstad engages in dairying, keeping about thirty head of Shorthorn cattle for this purpose. He also raises Duroc-Jersey hogs and keeps a good breed of farm horses. He is a stockholder in the Chester Creamery and a member of the Bloomfield Lutheran church. He is a staunch Republican and has served in minor offices in his township. Martha Osland became his wife in February, 1902, and they are the parents of two sons, Henry and William. Mrs. Fjelstad is a daughter of Lars Osland, who came to this country from Norway, and for fifty years lived at Ossian, Iowa, after which he moved to York, this county, where he carried on farming until his death.

**David Allen**, eldest son of Tristram Allen and Elizabeth Allen, was born in New York City in 1831. At the age of four years he moved to the state of Michigan, and in 1853 to the town of Sumner, Fillmore county, where he took up a homestead. Here he was married to Lepha Ann Carter in 1854 and lived until 1882

when he moved to Spring Valley. In 1887 he went to Ashland, Ore., and died there November 29, 1903. Mrs. Lepha A. Allen, eldest child of Gulielmus Carter and Letsey T. Carter, was born in Rochester, N. Y., in the year 1828. She went to the state of Michigan with her parents in 1834 and pioneered by team to the town of Sumner in the year 1853. Here she endured the hardships of a new country and was married to David Allen in 1854. She had three children, Frederick Tristram, Emma Frances and Jessie Irene. She died May 27, 1887.

**Rev. David Svennungsen** was born in Winona, Minn., March 26, 1876. He graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., June 12, 1900, and from United Church Theological Seminary June 12 the same year at Albert Lea, Minn. He was married October 26, 1904, to Carrie Grothe, of Elk Point, S. D., and they have three children: Rolf, Steiner and David. Mr. Svennungsen was pastor at Rugby, N. D., from July, 1904, to February, 1911. He removed to his present pastorate in February, 1911, residing at Le Roy, Minn., serving the following congregations: Satersdahl, Fillmore county, Minn., and Le Roy, Minn.; Ridgeway, Iowa, and Cresco, Iowa.

**Rev. Alvin Schoebel** was born in Saxony, Germany, April 29, 1872, and came to America in 1886. He took special classical courses at Wartburg College, at Waverly, Iowa, and studied theology at Wartburg Seminary, at Dubuque, Iowa. He was ordained in North Dakota in 1895 and served in that state twelve years. He also served in South Dakota one year. In April, 1909, he came to Spring Valley, where he has since remained, having charge of the German Lutheran churches at Spring Valley and Hamilton. He is married and has three children.

**Rev. T. Wagner** was born in Germany, November 25, 1875, and received a good education in his native country. He came to the United States in 1894 and entered the Wartburg Seminary at Waverly, Iowa, where he studied three years. He was ordained March 5, 1897. He preached in Mapleleaf, Howard county, Iowa, three years, and in Harmony, Minn., about nine years. He came to Wykoff in 1908. He was married August 2, 1899, and has two children. He is one of the visitors of the Minnesota Conference of the Iowa Synod of the German Lutheran church.

**Rev. Paul J. Kumpf**, son of a distinguished German divine, was born at Mt. Horeb, Wis., December 16, 1875. He was educated at Wartburg College, Clinton, Iowa, and studied theology in Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, having as his theological



professors one of the ablest theologians of this country, the Rev. Prof. M. Ren, D. D. He was first sent as a missionary to the northern parts of Wisconsin, where he had an extensive field of labor. A call was extended to him by the Preston German Lutheran Evangelical St. Paul's church, of Preston, in 1909 and he has given most excellent service, being an influential man in the community, as well as a strong man in his church.

**Henry O. Bearson**, the genial owner of the Merchants Hotel in Lanesboro, was born in Newburg township in 1865, one of the eleven children of Ole B. and Bergitt (Nelsdatter) Garnaas. Ole Bearson was born in December, 1826, and came to America from Hallingdahl, Norway, with his parents in 1853, and located the following year in Newburg, where, for several years, he worked on his father's farm. In 1858 he bought property on section seventeen, and in December of that year married Bergitt Nelsdatter, who was born July 27, 1842. Henry O. was educated in the country school and spent his boyhood years at home. In 1894 he bought a farm west of Newburg village and carried on general farming. In 1899 he purchased a farm near Mabel. Two years later he disposed of this and moved to Highland, Amherst township, where he had previously purchased property. Until 1907 he lived on the farm in Amherst township, after which he came to Lanesboro, where he bought the Merchants Hotel, which he has since operated with success. Mr. Bearson devotes a greater share of his time and attention to dealing in real estate, being an investor in farm and city lands. He married Genia Nelson on May 26, 1894, and to them six children have been born: Beula (deceased), Oscar, Bernhard, Martin, Beula and Herman.

**Peter Lommen** was born in Norway, and came to America in 1851, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he farmed two years. Then he came to Minnesota and settled in Houston county. His wife, Maria Haralset, also born in Norway, came to America in 1861, and settled in Houston county. There they were married, and there spent the remainder of their days.

**A. P. Lommen, M. D.**, a well known physician residing in Lanesboro, was born in Spring Grove, Houston county, this state, May 10, 1867, son of Peter and Maria (Haralset) Lommen. He acquired his primary education in the common schools near his old home. Later he entered the Galesburg University, now known as Gales College. With this classical preparation, he entered the University of Minnesota, and was graduated with the medical class of 1895. He practiced in Mabel, this county, two



OLE KNUDSEN AND FAMILY

years, and earned an enviable reputation, after which, in 1897, he established himself in Lanesboro, where he still maintains his office. His skill as a practitioner, his worth as a man, his genial manner, and devotion to the highest ethics of his profession, have won for him the confidence of a large clientele. He has allied himself with the Houston and Fillmore County Medical Society, and the Minnesota State and American Medical associations, and also belongs to the I. O. O. F. of Lanesboro. His interest in the affairs of the village is shown by his service as president of the board of education and as a member of the board of health. Dr. Lommen was married June 3, 1897, to Stella Johnson, daughter of Rasmus and Maria (Hellickson) Johnson, and their home has been blessed with two children, Helen M. and Robert M.

**Ole Knudsen**, one of the highly respected citizens of Lanesboro, was born in Ness, Hallingdahl, Norway, September 22, 1843, and there received his education and grew to manhood. When eighteen years of age he embarked for America and settled in Amherst township, this county, where he worked out as a farm hand for a period of six months. From then until 1867 he did various work in the community and also followed rafting on the Mississippi river, after which he purchased a farm in Amherst township, and there gave his entire attention to agricultural pursuits, until 1881. That year he traded this place with John P. Johnson for a fine farm of 160 acres in Canton township, and later added another 160, making a total of 320 acres. By dint of hard work he developed a fine farm and became one of the moving spirits in his community. There he lived, farmed and prospered until the year 1900, when, deciding to retire from active farming operations, he rented his farm and erected a home in "Brooklyn," a suburb of Lanesboro. The home is modern in every respect, and with its fine lawns, shrubbery and gardens, bespeaks the intelligent care of its owner. Here Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen are spending their declining years in ease and quiet, surrounded by a host of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Knudsen has reached nearly to the three-score-years-and-ten mark, and enjoys his mature years amid the comforts which he has rightly earned—his great pride being that by hard work and thrift, and assisted by his wife and children, he was enabled to develop one of the finest farms in his community. Mr. Knudsen was married December 25, 1867, to Serena Christiansen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Christiansen, who settled in this county in 1863. Mrs. Knudsen was born in Drommen, Norway, December 22, 1843, came to America at seventeen years of age and located in Illinois, thence coming to this county, in 1866. It is worthy of note that Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen both came to this country on the

same vessel, but at that time did not suspect that their lives were later to be united. They are the parents of twelve children, of whom ten are living: Charles now owns and operates a part of the home farm in Canton; Celia is now Mrs. O. M. Habberstad, of Lanesboro; Alfred lives in Canton; Jonas lives in Columbus, N. D.; Agnes is now Mrs. Arthur E. Swenson, of Lanesboro; Orva S. is in the employ of the Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank, of Lanesboro; Selmer lives in Crosby, N. D.; Theodore lives in Portland, Ore.; Bennett is a student in the law department of the University of Chicago; Tena is Mrs. Ralph Buell, of Lake Geneva, Wis.; Theodore Melvin and Alfred Eddy are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen have always taken a great interest in their children and have given them all a good education. All in all, they are worthy parents of worthy children. Mr. Knudsen never aspired to public office, although he was chosen and served for a number of years as a member of his school board. He is a stockholder in the Fergus Falls National Bank, of Fergus Falls, Minn. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**William J. Emmons**, retired farmer and citizen of Lanesboro, was born in Jo Davies county, Illinois, July 1, 1849, son of Earl S. and Prudence (Wiser) Emmons, both of whom were born in the year 1817. Joseph Emmons, father of Earl S. and grandfather of William J., was a soldier in the War of 1812, and died at Freeport, Ill., at the advanced age of 99 years. Earl S., father of William J., was a native of the state of Pennsylvania, where he lived until sixteen years of age, when he removed with his parents to Loraine, Ohio, where he remained until 1840, that year going to Galena, Ill., where he married Prudence Wiser. In 1844 he and his family removed to Nora, Ill. On April 7, 1854, they came to Minnesota and bought land near "Stringtown," Amherst township, this county, where they remained for a period of three months, after which they moved to a farm south of Henrytown, and there followed farming for twelve years. In 1866 they moved to section nineteen, Amherst, and there following agricultural pursuits until December, 1892, during which month they moved to Lanesboro, where the father passed away, May 17, 1896, and the mother seven years later, February 18, 1903. William J., the son, attended school in the old log schoolhouse, which was located on his father's farm south of Henrytown, and worked with his father. He eventually purchased eighty acres of the old homestead and there carried on agricultural pursuits for many years. He was married July 15, 1875, to Mary Vought, daughter of Jacob Vought, and to them one son, Guy Earl, was born, November 27, 1876. He died May 6, 1895. In 1892 Mr. Emmons moved to Lanesboro and retired from active life. He is a member

of the Root River Lodge, No. 26, I. O. O. F. Mr. Emmons had a brother and sister: George was born March 17, 1856, in Canton, and there died in 1865; Sarah L. married I. L. Kimber, and has two children. They reside in Portland, Ore.

**H. Christopherson** was born in Nannastad, near Christiana, Norway, November 26, 1843, son of Christopher Haagenonson and Martha Olson, and resided in his native country till nineteen years of age. In 1863 he sailed for Quebec, Canada, and came thence to Norway township, Fillmore county, where he worked out two months. Then, feeling that as he was to have the United States his adopted home, he should answer the urgent call for war volunteers, he enlisted in Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry. After two years of faithful service, he received his discharge, at Fort Snelling, in 1865. He then returned to this county and soon entered the schools of Chatfield, later teaching in Norway township three years. In 1868 he went to Lanesboro and clerked in a store. Not satisfied with his education, he went to school at Sparta, Wis., for one year, and then was employed by a mercantile establishment at Lanesboro till 1876. In the latter year he formed a partnership with C. Johnson and engaged in the hardware business in Lanesboro for fourteen years, after which Mr. Johnson died, and Mr. Christopherson sold his interest in the business to the heirs. He then went into Pilot Mound township and opened a store, which met with liberal patronage for more than twenty years. In 1911 he moved to Lanesboro and retired from active business life. He is a Republican in politics. He was treasurer of Pilot Mound for nineteen years and treasurer of his school district for some time. He was county commissioner in 1875, 1876 and 1877, and in 1878 served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. He affiliates with Hardy Post, No. 118, G. A. R., and is a charter member of the Lanesboro lodge, I. O. O. F. He is a communicant of the Lutheran church of Lanesboro. Mr. Christopherson was married January 1, 1870, to Anna Paulson, and to them have been born eleven children: Minnie, Clara, Henry, Julia, Hilda, Emma, Alpha, Mattie, Arthur, Lillian and Leonard.

**James Galligan** was born in Pontinac, Canada, August 10, 1857, son of Dennis and Ellen (Doar) Galligan, natives of County Limerick, Ireland. He attended the schools of Lanesboro and early in life began to look out for his own welfare. He was long employed in railroad work, but some years ago left that employment and has since bought and sold horses in this county. He now operates a livery stable in Lanesboro. For twenty years Mr. Galligan has done good service as constable, a position he

still holds. For fifteen years he served as marshal. He married Catherine Ahern, and to them were born six children, three of whom are living, namely: Dennis G., Michael R. and John. Mrs. Catherine Ahern Galligan died in 1889. Mr. Galligan married for his second wife Mary Richard, and to them has been born one child, Eveline.

**Dennis Galligan**, railroad contractor, was born in Ireland, and married Ellen Doar. He came to Canada in 1845, and to the United States in 1866, living in La Crosse, Wis., and Rushford, Minn., before coming to Lanesboro, in 1868. Here he made his permanent home. He had extensive contracts on the Southern Minnesota right of way, and took charge of that extensive undertaking still known as the "big cut." He died in May, 1911.

**Michael Scanlan**, banker, man of affairs and leading citizen of Lanesboro, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, September 25, 1840, son of John and Catherine (Healy) Scanlan, who, in 1854, brought their family to this country and located in Lake county, Ohio. Two years later young Michael, then sixteen years of age, started out with his brother Cornelius, and after a difficult journey reached Brownsville, in Houston county, this state. From there they walked to Preston, in this county, and secured employment in construction work, assisting in constructing the "old woolen mill" and the Stanwix hotel, now the Tibbetts House. In 1857 the parents came to Fillmore county and located in section twenty-four, Carroltown township, a portion of this claim afterward being included in the village limits of Lanesboro. Here the parents spent the remainder of their lives, the father passing away in 1889 and the mother in 1872. When the parents arrived, in 1857, Michael took up his home with them, and assisted in the work on the farm. Later he took up farming on his own account. When the village was platted on a part of his land, he, in company with C. C. Abbott, opened a hardware store. In 1876 he disposed of his interest in this establishment and went into the real estate and insurance business. He also became interested in the firm of H. Lyngaas & Co., general merchants. Subsequently he went into the mercantile business alone for some years, and occupied the building ("The Corner Store") where Skaug Bros. & Lynch are now doing business. Later he sold out to Ole Langlie and Peter Habberstad, who continued the business in the same building for many years. In 1886 Langlie & Habberstad disposed of their interests in the general stock to their predecessor, who subsequently sold out to his nephew, Cornelius C. Scanlan. In 1893 Mr. Scanlan manifested more interest in banking and decided to take a more active part in that line of business endeavor, in



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which he had been engaged with O. G. Wall since 1880. In 1895 Mr. Wall withdrew from the business and Mr. Scanlan conducted it alone until 1897, at which time a partnership was formed with O. M. Habberstad. In 1907 the Bank of Lanesboro was merged into an incorporated bank under the name of the Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank. In 1859 Mr. Scanlan was elected town clerk, and held that position for many years. In 1869 and 1870 he served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. In February, 1866, he married Annie Enright, and this union has been blessed with one daughter, Mollie, now the wife of James Leary.

**John Scanlan, Sr.**, an honored pioneer of Carrolton township, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in the year of 1797 and died in Fillmore county in 1889. He took his part in the upbuilding of the county, especially in the affairs of Lanesboro and Carrolton township. He was the father of five sons and one daughter: Daniel, John, Cornelius, Thomas, Michael and Mary, the latter of whom married Thomas Barrett.

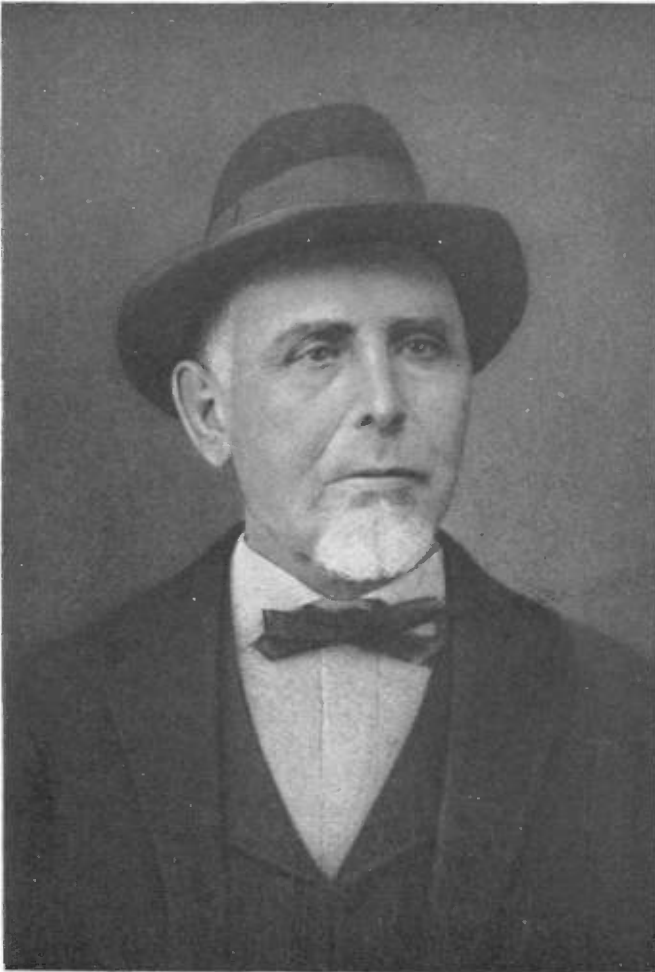
**T. L. Bersagel**, Lanesboro's successful and skillful photographer, first saw the light of day in 1871, at Stavanger, Norway, son of John L. Bersagel. In 1871 his father brought the family to America and located first in Rushford, later moving to Preble township. For several years after his arrival in this county T. L. assisted his father on the home farm, but, being of an artistic temperament, he decided to learn photography. Leaving home and coming to Lanesboro, he entered the Hanson studio, and there learned the business. In 1887 he purchased the Hanson business and has since conducted it by himself. That he is well fitted for his chosen occupation is proven by the high grade of his work and his ever increasing business. His studio being modern and well equipped, he caters to a first class trade and aims to please all customers. Fraternally he is a member of the Yeomen. Mr. Bersagel married Cassie Gravaas, and to them have been born Alpha, Alvin, Edward, Ida, Marie, Louise, Benita, Carl, Edwin, Ruth and Theodore. Alvin is married and lives in North Dakota.

**Michael Barrett**, of the Lanesboro Rolling Mill Company, was born near Painesville, Ohio, September 18, 1856. When but a year of age he came with his parents, Thomas and Mary (Scanlan) Barrett to the village of Preston, arriving there in April 1857. His father was one of the builders of the John Kaercher flour mill and also assisted in the building of the courthouse. In 1860 the family moved to Lanesboro and the father engaged in farming the remainder of his life, dying in 1894. The wife and mother



died in 1900. The old homestead was sold to the Lanesboro Land Company, after which the family moved to another farm, two miles south of the village. Michael was given a common school education and worked for his father on the home farm during his early years. In 1908 he came to Lanesboro and engaged in flour milling in partnership with James Leary. This partnership has since continued and each year shows an increase in the business, owing to the good judgment and management of the owners. Fraternally the subject of this biography is affiliated with the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus. He was united in marriage with Mary Donovan, who has borne him six children: Benetia, now Mrs. John Julian; Margaret, a teacher at Fillmore; Celia, Helen, Loretto and Theresa, the latter two being twins. M. Barrett served as assessor of Carrolton township from the year 1894 to 1908, a period of fourteen years.

Cornelius Scanlan, deceased, was one of the early settlers of Carrolton township. He was of Irish birth and parentage and first saw the light of day in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1834, son of John and Catherine (Healy) Scanlan. During the fall of 1853 he crossed the ocean with his brother Thomas, his sister Mary and her husband, Thomas Barrett, landing November 14 of that year. The subject of this sketch secured employment in Cattaraugus county, New York, for six months after his arrival, and the following spring went on a raft down the Alleghany river to Great Western, Pa., there obtaining work hauling iron ore for the remainder of the summer. Later going to Pittsburgh, he from there set out for Cleveland, and from the latter city walked to Painesville, Ohio, near which place he was employed by various farmers for a period of two years. During this time his parents came to America. In 1856 Mr. Scanlan with his brother Michael left Painesville for Minnesota, came by rail to Brownsville, Houston county, and from there walked to Preston. In Preston they were employed building the stone woolen mill and later assisted in the erection of the Stanwix Hotel, now the Tibbetts House. About a year later Mr. Scanlan went to Chatfield, where he spent a couple of years, after which, during 1859, he went south to Mississippi and worked picking cotton. At the outbreak of the war he returned north and homesteaded eighty acres of land near the present village of Lanesboro, there engaging in farming for many years. During Cleveland's administration Mr. Scanlan was appointed postmaster in Lanesboro, which office he ably filled for four years. Mr. Scanlan died February 14, 1912, and by his death the community lost one of its foremost and highly esteemed citizens. He married Bridget



CORNELIUS SCANLAN

Enright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Enright, and to them eight children were born. James, Bessie and Cornelius C. are now living, and Daniel, Michael, Delia, Catherine and John are deceased. James married Annie Horihen, and they are the parents of four children, as follows: John C. (who married Mary McDonald and has one child, Donald James), Mary, Louise and Joseph D. Bessie married Patrick Hennesey, and they are the parents of eleven children, as follows: Bridget E., Michael J., Rose, William C., Mary, Bessie, Daniel, Irene, Harry, Margaret and Aloysius. Cornelius C. married Margaret Rafferty, and they are the parents of three children: Lucile, Marian and Richard. Cornelius C. and his brother James are engaged in the grocery business in Lanesboro. They are wide-awake, hustling business men. Their popularity, together with their honest dealings and straightforwardness, has placed them in high esteem among their friends, and by hard work and push they are gaining a large share of trade in their line throughout the community.

Oscar S. Hood, a prosperous and representative farmer of Sumner township, was born on the farm where he now resides, August 31, 1862, son of George and Tirza Maria Hood, natives of New York state, who came to this county in 1856, preëmpted land in section sixteen, Sumner township, and lived there the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1892 and the mother in 1902. They were prosperous and substantial citizens, and their names will ever fill a place in the history of Fillmore county. Oscar S., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the common schools of his township, and later attended Elliott's Business College at Burlington, Iowa, for two years. Subsequently he remained with his father on the farm. He now owns 280 acres of land, which he works himself, following general farming along modern and progressive lines. He has a fine orchard of from five to six hundred trees, in bearing condition, which he himself set out. His beautiful home and outbuildings, together with his large lawn, shade trees and shrubbery, indicate the thrift and progressiveness of their owner. He raises about one hundred hogs annually, keeps about forty head of cattle of good breed and from sixteen to twenty horses of the Norman strain. In politics Mr. Hood is a progressive Republican, and has served his community in various offices with credit to himself and with satisfaction to those who elected him and bestowed upon him their trust. He has been town clerk for a period of sixteen consecutive years, a member of the school board in district 122 for nearly twenty years, and is now serving his second term as town treasurer. He is a member of Racine Camp, M. W. A. On September 3, 1890, he was united in marriage to Lillie Havenor, of Sumner township,

who has proved a most faithful helpmate, a good wife and a loving mother. To them three children have been born: May, Gladys and Beulah. There are few men in this county who can equal Mr. Hood's record of living nearly all his life and rearing his family in the house where he was born.

**John Havenor**, a territorial pioneer of Fillmore county, now living a retired life at Spring Valley, was born in Ireland, in February, 1821. He there received his education and grew to manhood and experienced the famine of that country in an early day. He subsequently came to America and spent the first fourteen months in Canada, after which he came to the United States and located in Wisconsin, engaging one year at canal work. After that time, until 1864, he engaged in farm work for different representative farmers between Ripon and Berlin, Wis. In 1864 he was employed by the government on a Mississippi river boat, which furnished supplies for the Union Army. He still relates with enthusiasm the experiences which he encountered on those trips. In 1866 he came to this county and purchased 160 acres of land in Sumner township, for which he paid \$1,250 cash, and here embarked in general diversified farming. In time he built a brick residence, and a substantial set of outbuildings for the housing of his stock, grain and machinery, becoming one of the representative and progressive farmers of Sumner township, and remaining here until 1904, when he sold his farm and removed to Spring Valley, where he and his wife are spending their declining years. He married Mary Jane Bailey, a native of Illinois, and to them have been born five children: Uriah, of Racine, Mower county, Minn.; William, who owns and conducts the old home farm in Sumner township; Edward, who resides in northern Minnesota; Harvey, of Wisconsin; and Lillie, now Mrs. Oscar Hood, of Sumner township. Mr. and Mrs. Havenor have been devoted to their home and family and have donated liberally to starting their children on their careers. In politics Mr. Havenor is a staunch Republican and his faith is that of the church of England.

**Olaf M. Habberstad**, cashier of the Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank, Lanesboro, was born in Fidsvold, Norway, in 1866, son of Ole Halverson Habberstad. Olaf M. obtained his early schooling at Lanesboro, and supplemented this with a business course in the J. P. Wallace Business College, at La Crosse. Then he became clerk in the Lanesboro postoffice, serving under U. C. Ras-sag and John Mullen. He was also in the postoffice at Preston a year and a half. Subsequently he engaged in the grocery business several years at Lanesboro. In June, 1897, he entered the

Bank of Lanesboro, which later assumed its present name. Mr. Habberstad has taken an interest in public affairs, has been village clerk and school treasurer and has served in other public capacities. He belongs to the M. W. A. and the I. O. O. F., and is treasurer of the latter organization in Lanesboro. The subject of this sketch was married September 4, 1889, to Celia Knudsen, daughter of Ole Knudsen, and their children are Earle, Claude, Orval, Ida, George and Lois.

**Ole Halverson Habberstad** was born in Norway and brought his family to America in 1870, making the trip to Quebec in a sailing vessel. In August of that year they reached Highland Prairie, Holt township, this county, where they remained for some years. Later they located in the village of Lanesboro. In the family were nine children. Peter lives at Minot, N. D.; Hannah is now Mrs. Thomas Thompson; Bernt lives at Hutchinson, Minn.; Olaf M. is a banker at Lanesboro; Halvor and Ole are in partnership in the lumber business; Christian died at the age of thirty years; Martina became Mrs. Tew, and died in 1911; Marie, who became Mrs. Solberg, is also dead.

**Ole Habberstad**, of the Lanesboro Lumber Company, is a native of Eidsvold, Norway, having first seen the light of day January 29, 1857, son of Ole Halverson Habberstad. The subject of this sketch came to this country with his parents in 1870 and was educated in the schools of his native country and in the Elstad school in Holt township, this county. When he first started earning his living he worked as a section hand on the railroad. Some time later he learned the cooper's trade, at which he was employed for a period in Lanesboro. Three years later he accepted a position with the John Paul Lumber Company and went to Wells in their employ, remaining there for six years, after which he went to Flandreau, S. D., for six years. Returning to Lanesboro at the expiration of that period of time, Mr. Habberstad engaged in the hardware business with Thomas Thompson. Later they interested themselves in lumber. For sixteen years the firm of Habberstad & Thompson continued, the partnership being dissolved by the death of Mr. Thompson, in 1906. Three years later Mr. Habberstad disposed of the hardware business and gave his entire attention to lumber, taking as his partner his brother, Halvor. Fraternally, Mr. Habberstad is affiliated with the I. O. O. F. and M. W. A. He attends the Lutheran church. He married, February 2, 1882, Carrie Olson (Koernes), and they are parents of Oscar E., Florence, Mabel C., Herbert A. and Mildred. Oscar is cashier of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, at Blooming Prairie. He married Zina Peterson, and they have

two children. Florence is the wife of Dr. Thomas Golberg, a dentist of Lake Preston, S. D. Mabel is a student at the Stout Institute of Menomonie, Wis.

**A. J. Lund**, of the firm of Christianson & Lund, and one of the representative business men of Lanesboro, was born in Rennesen, one mile north of Stavanger, Norway, July 28, 1858, son of Jacob Lund. He received his education in his native country and there grew to manhood. In 1875 he came to the United States, locating first in Newburg, where he secured employment for four years, during which time, being of thrifty habits, he devoted his savings to horse dealing. Later he followed railroading for four years. In 1883 he and Thomas Tollefson opened a hardware store in Canton. A year later George Johnson purchased Mr. Tollefson's interest and the firm continued under the name of Lund & Johnson for about six years. Then Mr. Lund sold his interest, moved to Lanesboro and formed a partnership with Anton Christianson in the buying and shipping of horses and in the implement and farm machinery business. At the end of five years they discontinued the buying and shipping of horses, but remained in the implement and machinery business. Twelve years ago Anton Christianson sold his interest to his son, C. B. Christianson. The business, which has grown rapidly, is now a large and lucrative one, and is still conducted under the name of Christianson & Lund. Mr. Lund was married May 22, 1891, to Josephine Tollefson, and to them have been born four children: Tracy, Clare, Bernice and Francis. The family church is the Methodist Episcopal, of which they are all communicants. In politics Mr. Lund is of broad views, but usually votes with the Republican party. At present he is member of the village council of Lanesboro and has rendered valuable service in this capacity for the past seven years.

**Thomas Scanlan**, retired farmer of Lanesboro and one of Fillmore county's pioneers, was born in Ireland in 1836, son of John and Catherine (Healy) Scanlan. During the fall of 1853 the subject of this sketch, his brother Cornelius, his sister Mary and her husband, Thomas Barrett, crossed the Atlantic and landed at New York. For about a year and a half Mr. Scanlan and his brother were employed in Chautauqua county, New York, after which he went to Painesville, Ohio, there joining his parents. Early in 1857 the family started for Minnesota, and, after being delayed at Rock Island for several weeks, reached Winona, and from there walked to Carrolton township. The father took a claim near the present village of Lanesboro and there farmed for the remainder of his life. Thomas was in Preston in 1857, the

year of the panic, and remained there two years, after which he moved to Chatfield, where he worked a farm on shares. Moving to Lanesboro during 1863, he for two years was employed at various occupations, after which he went to Mississippi and picked cotton. Two years later he returned to Minnesota and bought eighty acres in what is now "Brooklyn," a suburb of Lanesboro, there farming for several years and later selling to the Lanesboro Land Company. In 1868 he bought a farm at Clear Grit, which he operated for six years, later selling to John Kaercher. For two years Mr. Scanlan worked with his brother Michael in the hardware business in Lanesboro, after which he bought another farm of 120 acres a mile east of Lanesboro. For seven years he carried on general farming on that property and added to his holdings as opportunity afforded. Later selling that farm, he bought 280 acres on sections six, three and ten, and there carried on his chosen occupation until 1902. During that year Mr. Scanlan and his family moved into Lanesboro, where he has retired from active life and is spending his days surrounded by the many comforts which his years of toil on the farm earned for him. He married Ellen, daughter of Jeremiah and Bridget (Divan) Moriarity, and they had a family of six children, four of whom are living. John is at Remore, S. D.; Johanna is the wife of J. J. Enright, of Carrolton township; the next child was Thomas J.; Nellie is now Mrs. T. Mulvehill; Mary and Katherine are dead. Mr. Scanlan served the town of Carrolton for seven years as assessor.

Aaron G. Nash, Sr., deceased, was born in Denmark, Lewis county, New York, July 19, 1810. When ten years of age he moved with his parents to Canada and there received his education, grew to manhood, and fitted himself for life's battles. In 1841 he came to the United States, settled in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and there engaged in farming. He also did a thriving business for several years as a commission merchant in Milwaukee, but his home was always on the farm. In 1868 he left Wisconsin and came to Minnesota, locating in Lanesboro and engaging in the grain business. He shipped the first carload of wheat from this vicinity, and to advertise the event the Southern Minnesota Railroad charged no freight on the car. Some years later Mr. Nash opened a grocery store which he successfully conducted together with his other various lines of business. He was married September 26, 1836, to Elizabeth Foster, and to them were born five children: Myra, Charles, Olive A., Mary A. and Helen C. The only living one is Mary A., who resides in Milwaukee. Mrs. Elizabeth (Foster) Nash died March 31, 1848. April 23, 1849, Mr. Nash married Emily S. Abbott, and to them were

born nine children, six of whom are now living: Albert M., of Tracy, Minn.; Ernest F., of North Yakima, Wash.; Carrie E., of Aberdeen, S. D.; Bertha S., Mabel G. and Aaron G., Jr., all of Lanesboro. Mr. Nash entered into rest October 20, 1885. Mrs. Emily (Abbott) Nash, who was born February 20, 1826, at Port Hope, Canada West, now lives with her children in their picturesque home, on the bluffs overlooking the village of Lanesboro, which they built in 1903. Mr. Nash was one of the men who will always be remembered by the people of Lanesboro and vicinity as a true, loyal and progressive citizen. At one time he was president of the Agricultural Fair Board of Lanesboro. He also rendered valuable service to the village as a member of the council and as a member of the board of education. His death was mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives.

**Aaron G. Nash, Jr.**, one of the representative and progressive citizens of Lanesboro, now employed by the La Crosse Grain Company, of Lanesboro, was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, October 20, 1864, son of A. G. and Emily S. (Abbott) Nash. When five years of age he came with his parents to Fillmore county and settled in Lanesboro, where he attended the public schools and acquired the rudiments of his education. Upon reaching manhood he entered into the grain business with his father and has since continued in this line of work. He is a member of Lebanon Lodge, No. 111, A. F. and A. M. He is also a member of Root River Lodge, No. 26, I. O. O. F.

**Samuel A. Nelson**, banker, merchant and senator, is one of the most favorably known men of Lanesboro, his long residence here, and the energy which he has devoted to public matters as well as to his own interests having placed him on a very high plane in the esteem of the people among whom he has spent so great a part of his life. He was born in Lyngdals, Prestegjeld, Christiansand Stift, Norway, January 6, 1851, son of Peder Nielson Erickstad and Anne (Samsen-Aen) Nielson, who came to the United States in 1851 and located in Chicago, where they lived three years, after which they moved to Glenwood township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they lived until 1865, when they moved to this county and located in Newburg township, where they carried on farming operations until 1875, when they retired and moved to Decorah, Iowa, where they lived the balance of their days. Samuel A. Nelson, the subject of this sketch, attended the public schools of Winneshiek county, Iowa, and of Fillmore county, Minnesota, later graduating from Bryant & Stratton's Business College of Chicago, after which he took up farming operations in this county. When twenty-one years of





S. A. NELSON

age he opened a general store in Lanesboro, which place has since been his home. He conducted this store alone for a short period, then formed a partnership with Ole Langlie. The firm of Nelson & Langlie continued for a period of six years, after which the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Nelson took Gunder Nepstad as a partner. The store was continued under the name of Nelson & Nepstad for a period of two years, after which the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Nelson again took Mr. Langlie as a partner. They continued in business together until 1886. At the end of that time Mr. Nelson and his brother, Peter A., purchased Mr. Langlie's interest and the firm name then became Nelson Bros., thus continuing until they sold out, in 1909. In 1901 Samuel A. Nelson and his brother, Peter A., started a private bank, known as the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Lanesboro. This continued until 1905, when, under the new banking law, it became the State Bank of Lanesboro, which is still giving good service to its large number of patrons. Besides his numerous and extensive business interests, Samuel A. Nelson is interested in affairs of government and believes it the duty of every voter to take an active interest in political affairs. He is a Republican and as such served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature in 1903. In 1906 and in 1910 he was elected state senator, having served continuously since January 1, 1907. He has been president of his bank since its organization. He is a trustee of the United Lutheran church and has always taken an active interest in the Sunday school work. He is president of the Norwegian Pioneer Association, also president of the Vosselaget. He has served as mayor of Lanesboro and has rendered good service in other village and school offices. Mr. Nelson was married January 16, 1878, to Julia M. Skarie, who died March 8, 1904, and to this union ten children were born. Philander Julius is conducting a mercantile business on his own responsibility at Slayton, Minn. He married Mary Morse and they have one son, Osmund. Alfred M. and Arthur J. are in the mercantile business at Meadow, S. D., and Reeder, N. D. Christian G., a graduate of St. Olaf's College, died at the age of twenty-five years at the Union Seminary in New York city, where he was preparing for the ministry. Selma A. married Lewis Anderson, president of the John Anderson Publishing Company, of Chicago. The others are: Cordelia A. (deceased), Samuel F., P. Luther, Ferdinand (deceased) and Charlotte Ruth. In May, 1908, Mr. Nelson married Mrs. Amanda Kieland. She has one daughter, Mona.

**The Onstine Family.** The ancestry and early history of the Onstines lies in obscurity, owing partly to the fact that they belonged to the common people, and in the olden time records were

kept only by the great and well educated. Another reason was the fact that until the eighteenth century the name bore various forms, "I," "A" and "O" each being used at different times as the initial letter. The name has borne its present form for about one hundred years. It is well proven that Peter Instine and wife emigrated from Holland to America about 1730, and settled in Tioga county, New York, where two sons and a daughter were born: Michael, Frederick and Tina. Tina married Peter Reap, and when last known to the other members of the family was living near Corning, Pa. Peter Instine is believed to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War, one of the evidences being that the son, Frederick, had by his side, when captured by the British in the War of 1812, a sword which had been handed down to him by his father.

Frederick Onstine was born in Tioga county, New York, in 1760. He went to Chemung county as a young man and married Elizabeth Walker, afterward moving to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the brewing business until 1793. In that year Frederick took his wife and five sons to Lower Canada, where he bought a large tract of land near Long Point. Here he succeeded well in raising crops and stock, and in trading with the Indians, until 1812, when the war broke out. During this struggle, although living in Canada, his heart was on the other side of the lake, and he preferred to sacrifice liberty and his hard earned savings rather than to swear allegiance to the crown. He was accordingly taken prisoner, his stock driven off and his buildings burned, although through all of these trials he did not give up the sword which was handed down to him by his father, and which is still held as a glorious memorial by his grandson, Michael H. Onstine. The older sons, under the cover of the night, made their escape, leaving Henry, then a youth of nineteen years, to care for his mother and the two younger children, Philip and Christina. They were sheltered by friendly neighbors for a short time, and through the discretion of the mother \$1,600 in coin, saved from the family till, was placed in an earthen vessel and buried in a nearby forest. By the aid of a friend Henry secured a skiff and rowed his mother, his young brother and sister, and a few of their personal belongings down the lake, making a perilous trip in the middle of the night and reaching Black Rock, near Buffalo, amid the welcoming cheers of the Americans who lived near that point. The family acres were confiscated. This property could still be reclaimed but for the fact that the deeds were destroyed by fire while in the possession of Philip, the youngest of the seven brothers. War records and other family documents were also destroyed at the same time. Henry offered his services

to the United States as a patriot to protect the border for a while, and the family was scattered. However, the members of the family soon drifted back to their friends and former home in Pennsylvania, where a united effort kept the family together until the father was liberated. For a period of five years the five older sons with axe and grain cradle took jobs of harvesting grain and clearing land. Meanwhile, Michael, uncle of these young men and brother of Frederick, had settled in Champaign county, Ohio, where he died of old age, leaving one daughter, Mrs. Moses Tryon. This settlement induced the family to follow, and the sons each selected a small farm in Loraine county, midway between the mouth of the Black and Vermillion rivers, near the present city of Loraine. Josiah Harris, a business man, and Henry Onstine made a plat of the village of North Amherst, and were identified with every movement that tended toward the development and progress of the county and village. Frederick, the subject of this sketch, his wife and his sons, Daniel, Frederick and George, died of old age, and are buried in the family cemetery one mile west of North Amherst. Christina died February 10, 1823, aged twenty-four years. The son, John, moved to Wisconsin and died shortly afterward. Michael, Henry and Philip, the other sons, are laid at rest in the Henry cemetery, near the village of Henry, Fillmore county, Minn. The family has in its possession the following land warrant issued to Frederick Onstine for the services of himself and his sons in the War of 1812: "January 30, 1828. Twentieth congress. First session. Read twice and committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow. Mr. Earle from the committee on private land claims, to which has been referred the petition of Frederick Onstine, reports the following bill: 'A bill for the relief of Frederick Onstine. Be it enacted by the senate and the house of representatives, of the United States of America, in congress assembled, that Frederick Onstine, of the state of Ohio, shall be and is authorized to enter any of the unappropriated lands of the United States which have hitherto been offered for sale, two sections of land, and the register of the proper district shall give him a certificate therefor, in due form, upon the presentation of which to the commissioner of the general land office he is hereby authorized and requested to issue to the said Frederick Onstine a patent or patents for same, which shall be taken or held as full compensation for all services rendered to the United States by the said Frederick Onstine and his sons during the late war.' "

Henry Onstine was born on a boat on Lake Erie, September 15, 1793. As already related he assisted his mother in escaping from Canada during the War of 1812. After landing at Black

Rock, near Buffalo, he was safe under the protection of the American flag. But his heart was filled with sorrow, his brothers were scattered, his father was a prisoner and he had seen the war dance danced over the scalps of those who had long been faithful servants to his father's family. But stimulated with love of liberty and patriotism, he left his mother with friends and offered his services to protect the border, where the Indians were murdering settlers in order to secure the bounty offered for scalps. He was stationed at Lower Sandusky for some time, but, not being called into service, he joined the family in Pennsylvania, and went with them to Loraine county, Ohio. There he married Susan Sadler, in Dover township, December 16, 1818, her parents being estimable citizens who are now buried at Dover Bay, Ohio. Mr. Onstine settled at North Amherst, became a prominent citizen and there remained until his wife died, February 10, 1838, leaving him with seven daughters and a baby son. His love for adventure prompted him to make a number of trips to Wisconsin, and in 1847 he extended his trip to Fort Snelling and the Falls of Saint Anthony. In 1852 he married Mrs. Sebrina Tillotson, widow of Ira Tillotson, of Elyria, Ohio, and sold his farm, deciding to locate in southern Iowa or Missouri. Then the Onstine party, so called, was organized, and northern Iowa or Missouri was fixed upon as the objective point. Amherst township was finally chosen as the future location of the party. Henry Onstine took an active part in all public enterprises and was one of the first town officers. His second wife died in 1862, and he later married Esther Nelson, widow of John Nelson, who came from the Isle of Man and settled in North Amherst, Ohio, in the early part of the nineteenth century. Esther Onstine, the third wife, died July 13, 1869. Henry Onstine died February 10, 1873. The Onstine party gave to the county two of its earliest births: Fred L. Tillotson was born December 11, 1853; Julia Eddy was born December 22, 1853.

No article will ever be written which will adequately describe the hardships of the early pioneers. Some of the pioneers, it is true, came from poverty ridden lands, and even in the earliest days were not much worse off here than in the old country. But the majority were people like the Onstine party, people in whose blood ran the strain of sturdy ancestors, people whose forbears had suffered in the cause of liberty, people who were accustomed to better things but who, in order that the advance line of civilization might be pushed farther into the wilderness, were willing to put up with all discomforts, willing to endure cold and illness and starvation, willing to part with the church and school and literary and social advantages of an older community; willing to part with all the conveniences, and willing to

labor at the hardest, most exhausting and discouraging work—thus making it possible for future generations to know the settled peace of a prosperous land.

**Michael H. Onstine** was born in Loraine county, Ohio, in August, 1835. His father, having a taste for adventure, spent most of his time in traveling, and when Michael H. was eight years old the two went on a trip to Pennsylvania, the former home of the family. In 1847 they crossed the prairies to Galena, Ill., and took a trip on the steamer "Highland Mary" to Fort Snelling. While they were at the Falls of Saint Anthony the boat left them and they crossed the land to St. Paul, where they stopped at Hotel Bass, the first hotel in that city. The "Ben Franklin" was at that time engaged in moving some Winnebagoes and Sioux to the Crow Wing reservation. About four thousand were camped at St. Paul and around Fort Snelling. A small frame house and a lone soldier to guard the Indians was all that the Onstines saw on the Minneapolis side. The Onstines boarded the "Ben Franklin" and descended the river as far as the mouth of the Chippewa, where they joined a crew of raftsmen, and labored at the sweeps for seven days before reaching the ferry opposite Galena. In August, 1853, Michael H. Onstine came with the Onstine party to Amherst township, where he has since resided. In 1858 he married Augusta E. M. Osgood, one of the early school teachers in the county, daughter of John Osgood, one of the first settlers in northeastern Iowa. Mrs. Onstine died January 9, 1906, leaving three sons: Elbert, Frank and Elmer. Another son, Henry, died in 1864, at the age of two years. In 1858 Mr. Onstine was elected the first town clerk of Amherst. He served as postmaster under three administrations, has held many other offices of trust and has always been a leading man in public affairs. In 1857 he was one of the committee of four appointed to establish the territorial road from Rochester, Olmsted county, to the Iowa line of section thirty-six, Canton township, in Fillmore county. He is an able writer and historical investigator, and has taken an active part in old settlers' meetings.

**William A. Seeley**, traveling salesman, now living in Spring Valley, was born in Bloomfield township, August 26, 1868, son of Mark and Luella G. (Baker) Seeley. He received his earlier education in the district schools of his native township, and later studied in the Spring Valley High School. Subsequently he started agricultural pursuits for himself in Beaver township, later going to Forestville township, where he continued in the same line for nine years. Then he moved to Spring Valley, and has since been a commercial traveler a greater part of the time.

Being of a fraternal nature, he has allied himself with the Spring Valley lodges of the M. W. of A. and the A. F. & A. M. Mr. Seeley was married December 18, 1895, to Mary L. LaFevere, daughter of Vital and Sarah A. LeFevere. Mr. and Mrs. Seeley have one daughter, Leona M., born October 11, 1897. The family worships at the Congregational church.

Mark Seeley was born in the town of Avon, Loraine county, Ohio, September 3, 1838, and removed to Harvard, McHenry county, Ill., with his parents when eleven years of age, there receiving his education and growing to manhood. In the fall of 1861 he came to this county and located in Beaver township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, on which was a small log cabin, in which the family found a temporary home. As time passed he prospered by dint of hard labor, added to his land until he owned 320 acres, erected a good farm dwelling and a substantial set of outbuildings, and became one of the representative farmers of the township. In 1899 he rented his farm, purchased a home in Spring Valley and retired from active labor. In 1907 he sold his Spring Valley home and moved to San Jose, Cal., where he and his wife are now spending their declining years in quiet and peace. Mr. Seeley was married in this county in December, 1867, to Luella G. Baker, born in Delhi, Delaware county, Iowa, September 30, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Seeley were the parents of two children: William A. and Jennie M. William A. lives in Spring Valley; Jennie M. is now Mrs. Leross Rix, San Jose, Cal., and has three children: Ruth, Calvin and Paul.

Joseph Richards, Sr., now deceased, was born in England, January 28, 1828, learned the stonecutter's trade as a young man, and came to America in 1852. He worked at his trade and at bridge constructing in Canada and the United States for several years. In 1856 he was married and in 1857 the young couple came to the farm in York township, where they lived the remainder of their days. Mr. Richards became a prominent man, took a great interest in school matters, served on school and town boards, and was greatly an ardent friend of every movement for the co-operation and betterment of the farmers, being a stockholder in the elevator at Lime Springs and the creamery at Chester. After a useful life, which was filled with good works, he died, July 15, 1912, at the age of eighty-four years, five months and thirteen days. His wife, Elizabeth Ann Vincent, also a native of Cornwall, England, whom he married at Rouses Point, N. Y., July 27, 1856, died in 1904. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom died in infancy. Martha, who married W. C. Love, and Ruth, who married Frank Ogg, are dead; Mary is the wife of

John Love, of Fargo, N. D.; Joseph, Jr., lives on the home farm in York; John and William live in Sandstone, Minn. As an early pioneer Mr. Richards learned all of the hardships of those trying times of the late fifties. His prosperity was won honestly, through hard work. His convictions, which were in advance of his times, were those which in the present year are gaining such favor throughout the nation. Living in a community where many of the pioneers were unlearned, he labored earnestly for the betterment of the schools, and lived to see his wishes realized. He was a useful, prominent, prosperous, substantial and God-fearing citizen, and his memory will ever be cherished.

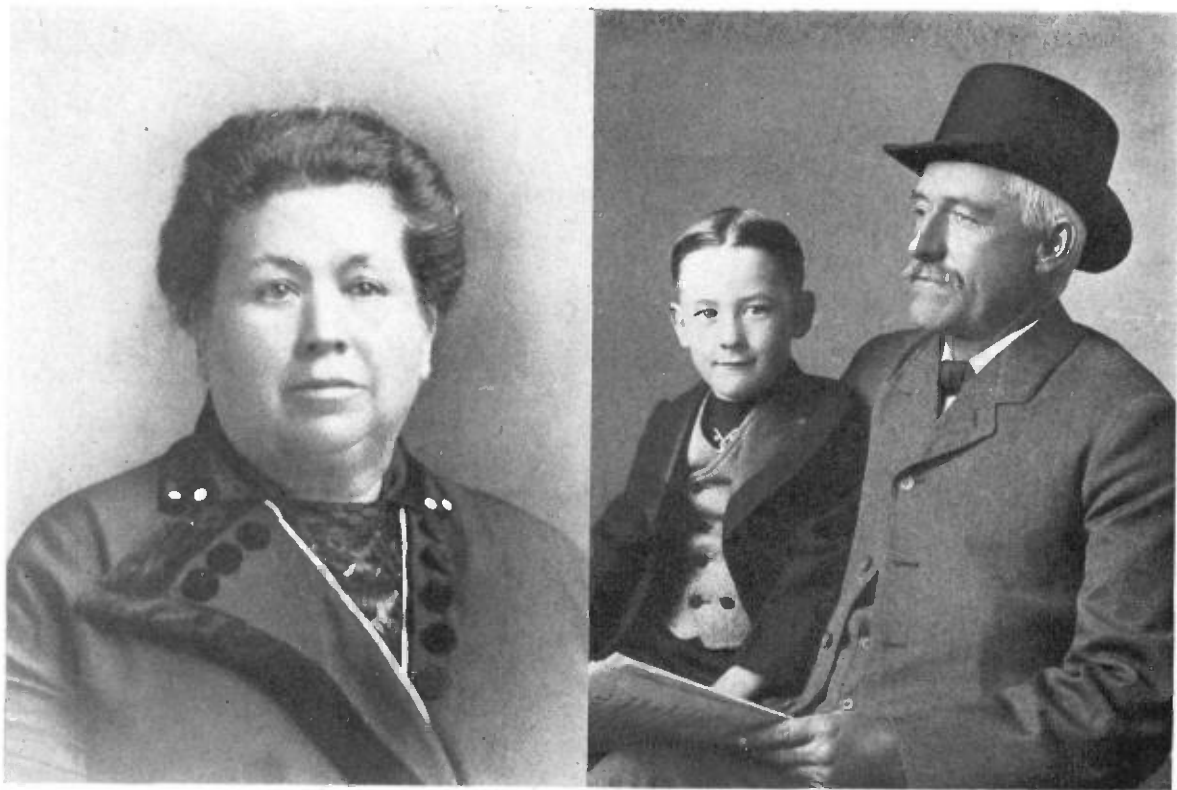
Joseph Richards, Jr., a substantial and worthy citizen of York township, was born on section ten, where he still resides, November 1, 1864, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Vincent) Richards. He received his early education in the district schools of his township, then attended the Preston High School, and supplemented this with a course in the Breckenridge Institute, at Decorah, Iowa. He also taught school one term. Thus equipped with a good business education, he started out in life as a farmer, working on his father's place with his parents until 1894, when he purchased eighty acres of the farm, erected a comfortable home and engaged in diversified farming on his own account. In addition to this he owns a half interest in, and operates, the property left by his father. Mr. Richards is one of the progressive farmers of York township, and, like his father, is of sterling character, and ever ready to help in the promotion of whatever may be for the betterment of his town and county. For seventeen years he served judiciously as justice of the peace, was chairman of his town for one term, and is now a member of the school board. He was married December 11, 1895, to Nina McKenzie, who has proved a most efficient helpmate, a good wife and a loving mother. To them one child, Lloyd, was born, November 9, 1896. He is the pride of their household and is doing well with his studies in the Spring Valley High School.

E. G. Washburn, Spring Valley's successful and esteemed photographer, was born in Franklin county, New York, October 5, 1864, son of Charles and Emeroy (Baker) Washburn, natives of Vermont, who came to Spring Valley from New York in 1865 and now reside with the subject of this sketch, the father being a carpenter by trade. E. G. received the rudiments of his education in the schools of this village, and later attended the Illinois Normal School, after which he took a course in the Dixon (Ill.) Business College. Thus equipped with a good education, he entered the business world in the capacity of bookkeeper for Rice &



Lashbrook, grocers, in Austin, Minn. He remained with this concern for two years, and then entered the photographic studio of L. M. Schofield, with whom he formed a partnership, which continued through the year of 1889. Some time later Mr. Washburn entered the furniture and undertaking business in Spring Valley, but, deciding that the work of photography appealed most strongly to him, he eventually bought out Mr. Schofield, and has since conducted the business on his own responsibility. The success with which he has met in his chosen occupation is evidenced by his finely equipped studio, the artistic quality of his photographs, and, above all, his ever-increasing patronage. Mr. Washburn is a part owner of the F. E. Miland general merchandise store, located in Racine, which is carrying on a prosperous business. In political convictions the subject of this sketch adheres to the principles endorsed by the Republican party, and he has been elected to serve in many prominent offices. He has been village recorder for nine years, and a member of the school board for six years. For eight years Mr. Washburn was a member of the Minnesota National Guard and a bugler in his company. He has also been a member of the Spring Valley Brass Band. Fraternally, Mr. Washburn affiliates with the Masonic order, and he has been worthy master of the blue lodge. October 19, 1897, he married Nellie Miland, and they are the parents of two children: Harry M., born April 15, 1900; and Marian E., born April 16, 1905.

Joseph Peter Meighen, proprietor of "Red Oaks," and since April, 1888 a resident of the town of Beaver, came to Fillmore county when a small boy, in 1855. He has watched the county grow from a pioneer community to its present thriving and prosperous condition. He was born in Vinegar Hill township, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, February 18, 1852, son of Felix Meighen and Eliza Jane (Foster) Meighen, who brought him to Forestville township when three years old. He received his education in the public school at Forestville and in St. John's College, Prairie du Chien, Wis. His father conducted an extensive mercantile business at Forestville during Mr. Meighen's youth, and he there received a practical business training, spending several years of his young manhood in partial charge of the business. November 23, 1876, at Forestville, Minn., he married Mary Elizabeth Smith. She was a daughter of Judge Dryden Smith and Elizabeth Ann (Hines) Smith, both pioneer residents of Spring Valley. Born July 14, 1854, at Decorah, Iowa, she came to Spring Valley with her parents in 1860. At the age of thirteen she was signally honored by receiving a second grade teacher's certificate on competitive examination from County



MR. AND MRS. J. P. MEIGHEN

Superintendent of Schools D. L. Kiehle. In May, 1871, she commenced teaching in the public schools at Etna, and from that time until her marriage was engaged in public school work, teaching at Rushford, Fountain, Spring Valley, Grand Meadow and elsewhere. Two children were born of the marriage. The elder, John Felix Dryden Meighen, was born at Spring Valley, Minn., September 25, 1877. He is now a practicing lawyer at Albert Lea, Minn. The younger, Thomas Virgil William Meighen, was born at "Red Oaks," in the town of Beaver, October 29, 1893. He is still in college. From their marriage, in 1876, until April, 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Meighen resided most of the time in the village of Forestville. Since April, 1888, they have lived at "Red Oaks," in the town of Beaver. Mr. Meighen is a member of the M. W. A., of the I. O. O. F. and of the Odd Fellows Encampment. He belongs to the progressive element in the Democratic party and has always taken a keen interest in politics. For years he has been an officer of the local school district and at various times has held the office of town supervisor, justice of the peace and other town offices. His residence is one of the most attractive, both in beauty and in comfort, to be found in the county. Genial companionability and uniform good nature has won and held for him a host of friends, and he is highly esteemed as one of Fillmore county's wide-awake and enthusiastic farmers, always alert to whatever may be for the advancement of the farmer and the welfare of the town and county. In 1907 Mr. Meighen made an interesting journey to the little parish of Inver, in Donegal county, Ireland, from whence his grandfather, William Mehan (the original spelling of the name) migrated in 1792.

**Halver E. Olson**, a progressive farmer of Beaver township, was born in this county on July 9, 1866, son of Even and Ragnal (Halverson) Olson. Until he became seventeen years of age, the subject of this sketch attended school near his father's farm, and after completing his studies worked for his father until 1895. He then purchased the home farm, on which he has since resided. He carries on general farming, raises Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, and has owned and operated a threshing machine for the past twenty-two years. Mr. Olson is a staunch Republican. He was appointed by Gov. A. O. Eberhardt, in 1911, as state boiler inspector of the fifth senatorial district (Fillmore county). Mr. Olson has also held other prominent public offices: has been town chairman for many years, supervisor of the town for nine years, school director of district 102 for many years and constable for several terms. In all the offices to which he has been elected he has given his best efforts

and has won the confidence and respect of his fellow men. In 1890 Mr. Olson married Minnie Hendrickson, of York township, and they are now the parents of eight children: Emil, Henry, Helma, Olga, Alvin, Agnes, Clara and Julius, who are all at home. The family attend the Lutheran church in Bloomfield, and are liberal contributors to its support.

**Even Olson**, deceased, one of the pioneers of Fillmore county, was born in Norway, and there went to school and spent the years of his boyhood. In the early fifties he came to America. Upon his arrival he proceeded west to Wisconsin, where he resided for four years, after which he came to Minnesota, in 1857, and bought 160 acres of wild land in section four, Beaver township, this county. He broke the land, planted crops, erected a log house and lived the life of the early pioneer. For about twenty years the family occupied the log house, after which it was replaced by a more pretentious dwelling. Mr. Olson was married to Ragnal Halverson in Norway, and she came with him to this country and proved a devoted and faithful helpmeet in all the trials which came during the years of hardship and privation which they experienced in this country. To them were born eleven children: Halver E., Edward, Ole, Martha, Lena, Alava, Julia, Bertha, Ella, Louise and Mary. The wife and mother entered into rest in 1897, and Mr. Olson died in 1902.

**Sebert F. Leonard** was born near Danville, Hendricks county, Ind., January 26, 1860, son of Elisha and Laura (Reynolds) Leonard. His parents were natives of North Carolina, but, feeling that a strife was about to arise between the North and South, and not being in sympathy with the Southern cause, they came north to Indiana, in 1857. In 1860 they came to Fillmore county, and in 1862 bought land on section twenty-three, Sumner township, where the father died, February 16, 1896, and the mother May 19, 1906. Sebert F. was educated in the Sumner common schools. He has been a farmer all his life and his success is well evidenced on the home farm, where all the comforts are provided and where the well kept buildings, the productive orchard and well filled barns speak of years of successful endeavor. He follows general farming and gives much of his time to stock raising, keeping a large herd of Shorthorn cattle, full blood Shropshire sheep and Ohio Improved Chester White hogs, his plan being to feed all the products of his fields so far as possible to his stock rather than to sell in the open market. He has a good number of well bred Belgium horses and is a part owner of a registered Belgium stallion. The home farm consists of 200 acres of excellent land, and in addition to this he owns

more than 150 acres in Spring Valley and Jordan townships. On October 3, 1903, a tornado did much damage to the farm, entirely destroying all the buildings except the residence, thus causing a loss of about \$5,000, and so damaging his apple orchard and walnut grove as to stop the trees bearing for some years. However, the damaged buildings were replaced by new ones and the place to-day does not give the idea that it ever suffered a disaster. It is worthy of note that the residence Mr. Leonard is living in was erected by his father in the summer of 1862. He hauled the finishing lumber by ox team from Winona, taking three days to make a round trip. It is also worthy of mention that Mr. Leonard cut 300 feet of lumber out of one log from a cottonwood tree which he planted at ten years of age. Mr. Leonard is a member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a Republican, but has never wished to hold office. He has, however, been school treasurer in district 123 for twenty-five years, and justice one term. On March 13, 1888, he married Elma Stuckman, who was born in Pleasant Grove township, Olmsted county, September 8, 1861. To them was born one child, which died in infancy. Mr. Leonard is a member of Meridian Lodge, No. 56, A. F. & A. M., of Chatfield; also a member and trustee of Chatfield Lodge, No. 89, A. O. U. W.

**Ole B. Larson** and **Bertha Johnson**, his wife, natives of Norway, came to America in 1850, and after living in Wisconsin four years came to this county, June 1, 1854, and took a claim of eighty acres in Preston township, where they built their home and engaged in farming. They toiled, labored and prospered, and added to their land from time to time until they owned 400 acres, all in one farm, and on which they spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Larson died June 22, 1885, and Mr. Larson died July 29, 1887. They were the parents of ten children: Mrs. Jane Taylor, of Preston; Lewis, who died on an ocean voyage; L. O., who owns and conducts the home farm; Mrs. Cornelia Gilbertson, of North Dakota; S. O., who died in 1907; his twin sister, Mrs. Ellen Forthum, of Preston village; Mrs. Betsy Thompson, of North Dakota; Mrs. Mary Olson, of Amherst township; Antinetta, who died at the age of seven years and eleven months; and William, the youngest son.

**Joseph F. Shutt** was born at Fort Wayne, Ind., January 1, 1858. He received his education in the district and public schools. His first business venture in life was in the mercantile business at Maysville, Ind., for two years. He then went to Duluth, Minn., where he was a clerk in a stationery store for fourteen months, after which he accepted a position in the

money order department in the postoffice of Duluth for two years. He then went to Seattle, where he clerked in the Arlington Hotel for six months. Then he returned to Minnesota and located on a farm in Canton township for three years. He then went to North Dakota and was located at Grand Forks for three years. Then he returned to Canton township, where he remained one year. Next he moved to Chester, Iowa, where he remained fourteen years, after which he returned to Canton township and engaged in farming with his brother-in-law, G. W. Willford. In October, 1910, he went to Canton village and there organized a firm known as Webster, Shutt & Co. In March, 1911, he sold out his interest, and from then until September, 1911, he was in the lumber yard at Canton village. He then bought his present farm on section 34, Spring Valley township, where he and his family now reside. He was married October 20, 1887, to Anna E. Willford, and to them two children have been born: Lela A., who is a teacher, and Ellis Fulton, who lives at home. The family faith is that of the Presbyterian church.

**William Taylor**, deceased, one of the early settlers of Fillmore county, was born in County Down, Ireland, April 23, 1835, a son of James and Sarah (Sturgeon) Taylor, natives of the same locality, where the father died, after which the family came to America. William lived with the family in New York state from 1851 to 1856, and then came to Preston, working about at various employment from October until the following spring, when the rest of the family arrived here. He pre-empted 160 acres in Fountain township. In 1886 he built a house on his claim, and here he and his wife took up their home. He devoted his entire life to farming, increased his place to 200 acres, made many improvements, and became one of the substantial citizens of the community. He died May 11, 1897. He was married March 7, 1869, to Jane Larson, who was born near Christiania, Norway, March 7, 1846, daughter of Ole B. and Bertha (Johnson) Larson. Mrs. Taylor still owns the home farm, which she rents. Aside from the farm she owns a very pleasant and comfortable home in the village of Preston, where she is spending her declining years.

**James Forthum** was born in Bergen, Norway, February 28, 1861, there received his education and grew to manhood. In 1869 he came to America, located in Buffalo county, Wisconsin, and there remained until 1891, when he came to this county and for two years lived in Lanesboro. In 1893 he purchased a farm in Fountain township, where he engaged in farming the balance of his days. On November 27, 1892, he married Ellen O. Larson,



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM TAYLOR  
S. O. LARSON—  
MR. AND MRS. JAMES FORTHEUM

a daughter of Ole B. Larson, and to them were born two children: Bertha M. and John O. Mr. Forthum died December 13, 1898. His wife lives in Preston village, with her sister, Mrs. William Taylor.

**Henry Rudolph Lupien**, for several decades a trainer of fast horses, was born in Montreal, Canada, April 22, 1855, going with his parents at the age of three years to Kankakee, Ill., where he was reared on his father's farm, attending the common schools and assisting his parents. In 1869 he went to Danville, Ill., and learned the barber's trade, in which line he has since continued the greater part of the time. In 1873 he went to Denver, Colo., and engaged in the same business. November 22, 1882, he arrived in Spring Valley, and in company with his brother conducted a shop until 1893, when he sold out his interest to his brother and went to Millbank, S. D., where he engaged in the trotting horse business, breaking, training and racing many fast horses. In 1895 he returned to Spring Valley, and on October 8 bought out his brother's business. Since that date he has conducted the Hotel Barber Shop, a place held in high favor by the people of Spring Valley, as well as by the traveling fraternity. He usually keeps two assistants. A hair tonic, invented by Mr. Lupien, will soon be put on the market, and has already proven its merits. Mr. Lupien is an enthusiastic fancier of fast horses, and has profitably spent much time in their breaking, training, raising and racing, being considered a reliable authority in his line, and having been engaged in handling trotters, pacers and running horses since 1866. Since 1895 he has been one of the directors of the Spring Valley Driving Park. In 1898 he broke Nervolo, with a record of 2:04½, who was later sold to Scott Hutchenson, of Memphis, Tenn., for \$15,000. In 1901 he bought Allie Dale, raced him successfully for two years, gave him a mark of 2:11¼, and sold him in 1908 to J. J. Sturgeon, of Marshall, Minn., for \$1,000. At present he owns and is racing Great Mix, a fast young pacer (by Allie Dale, 2:11½), who can step a 2:15 clip. He also has in training Maud Hamlin, who can step a 2:20 clip, and many others. He has handled such horses as Tom Hawthorne, trial mile 2:23¼; Ben Swigest, mark 2:28; Solo, 2:23½; Hika Boy, mark 2:23¾; Queen L., 2:16¼; Lady L. M. W., 2:17; Histro F., 2:25¼; Blue Volo, trial mile, 2:24; Nervolo, 2:04¼; Allie Dale, 2:11¼, and many others. Fraternally, Mr. Lupien associates with the A. O. U. W. In politics he is a Republican. On October 9, 1886, he married Mary E. Rhines, of Spring Valley, and they have two children: Beryle and Harold H., both at home. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.



**Edward F. Harnish**, son of Edward and Caroline Harnish, was born in Minneapolis, Minn., January 28, 1873. When an infant, he moved with his parents to Cannon Falls, Minn., and after the death of his father the family, consisting of the mother, twin sister and a younger brother, moved and settled in Hastings, Minn., where they have since resided. He attended high school and also business college at Hastings, and in 1890 began work as a printer's apprentice in the "Democrat" office, and continued working at this trade for several years. While living in Hastings he was a member of the state militia for three years. In 1896 Mr. Harnish went to Chatfield, Minn., to work in the "News" office for Wallace & Thompson. In 1899 Mr. Thompson having retired from the newspaper business, Mr. Harnish purchased a half interest of Mr. Wallace. Later, Mr. Stoudt bought Mr. Wallace's interest, and the firm Harnish & Stoudt was established. In 1900 Mr. Harnish was married to Helen M. Fairbank, in Chatfield. In 1902 Harnish & Stoudt bought the "Chatfield Democrat," consolidating the two papers. In November, 1910, Mr. Stoudt retired from active business, still retaining his interest, Mr. Harnish continuing as editor and publisher of the paper at the present time. Mr. Harnish is a member of the Masonic Lodge, also of the M. W. A.

**John E. Kennedy**, a substantial farmer of Harmony township, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, April 12, 1857, son of Moses and Bridget (Kelly) Kennedy. The family came west in 1869, and settled in section 32, Harmony, where for several years they lived in a log house. Later, a more pretentious home was erected. After a life filled with hard work, Moses Kennedy died in 1884 and his wife in 1898. Of the family of three boys and four girls, John E. was next to the youngest. He was reared on the home farm and attended school in district 44. Since then he has devoted his life to farming. The farm consists of 100 acres, with a comfortable home and large outbuildings. Mr. Kennedy married Mary Ann Fleming, an Iowa school teacher, daughter of John and Bridget Fleming, early settlers of that state. This union has been blessed with two children: Genevieve, who is attending the seminary at Winona, and Mary, a pupil in the Harmony high school.

**The Right Reverend Monsignor James Coyne** was born in Ireland, in the County Roscommon, in 1841. He was educated and ordained a priest in the College of Maynooth in 1869. He spent his first ten years as priest in missionary work and teaching in the Diocesan College of his native place. In 1880 he was stationed in Grand Meadow, Mower county, Minn., and in 1881 was

removed to Lanesboro to take charge of the Catholic parish there. He was Vicar General of the Diocese of Winona during the last fifteen years of the late Bishop Cotter's life. In 1890 Father Coyne was created Monsignor, and after the death of the Bishop he acted as administrator of the diocese until the consecration of the present Bishop, Right Rev. P. R. Heffron. The Roman Catholic Church of Lanesboro was built in 1872 by the Rev. William Reardon, now Monsignor Reardon.

**Thaddeus A. Wilkins**, now residing at Spring Valley, a railroad mail clerk on the route between Minneapolis, Minn., and Osage, Iowa, was born in Stockton, N. Y., March 25, 1848, son of Cordello and Sarah (Kelley) Wilkins. He came to Minnesota with his parents when he was but seven years old, and grew to manhood in Fillmore county. In February, 1864, before he was sixteen years of age, he enlisted in Company B, Hatch's Battalion, Minnesota Cavalry, doing scout duty in the western part of the Dakotas for nearly three years. After serving out his enlistment, he returned home and entered into partnership in the hardware business with his brother-in-law, James Scott, at Spring Valley. A year and a half later he disposed of his interests in this concern and went to Madison, Wis., where he attended a commercial college for a year. Then he again returned to Spring Valley, and engaged in the insurance and general collection business. Later he was appointed deputy sheriff, and served in this capacity several years. He received his present appointment in 1885. Politically, Mr. Wilkins upholds the tenets of the Democratic party. He is a member of Burdick Post, G. A. R.; Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M.; of the Royal Arcanum, and also of other organizations. The subject of this sketch married Medora E. Ober, of Preston, this county, daughter of Joseph and Rosannah (Chatfield) Ober, and this union has been blessed with two sons. Floyd died in infancy. Thad. A., Jr., is a popular dairyman.

**Thaddeus A. Wilkins, Jr.**, was born in Spring Valley, son of Thaddeus A. and Medora E. (Ober) Wilkins. He secured his education in the public schools, learned the jeweler's trade, worked at this trade several years, and attained a substantial place in the community. Since 1904 he has been engaged in the dairy business, being located on land pre-empted by his grandfather, Cordello Wilkins, a mile and a half southwest of Spring Valley. This place, christened the "Spring Brook Dairy Farm," is a model country estate in every particular, and is noted for its registered Jersey stock. In 1891 Mr. Wilkins married Elizabeth Perl Bryan, of Wells, Minn., and this union has been blessed

with four daughters. Calla Chatfield Wilkins graduated from the Spring Valley high school in 1912. Beryl Winifred is still in the high school. Dora and Dorris are in the graded schools.

**Cordello Wilkins.** In 1855 Cordello Wilkins, then an energetic young man who was engaged in carriage manufacturing at Stockton, N. Y., closed out his business there and, imbued with the spirit of progress and a desire to found for himself a new home in the wilderness, started for Minnesota with his wife, Sarah, and his children, Harriet H., Roseltha N. and Thaddeus A. Finding the village of Spring Valley but recently platted, he purchased a part of the interest of Nelson Burdick, one of the proprietors, and also pre-empted 160 acres, and soon acquired another 160, making 320 acres adjoining the village on the west. He at once became the prime factor in the growth and prosperity of the then little hamlet, engaging in the real estate business, and also having lumber and milling interests. In company with Ansel Crane, he put up the first mill in Spring Valley village. This mill was later moved to "Hard Scrabble," so called, it is said, from Mr. Wilkins' remark that it was going to be a hard scramble to get the mill moved there. Mr. Wilkins built the first frame house in Spring Valley, was commissioned one of the first postmasters, and served as one of the justices of the peace for several years. For thirteen years he spent his time in promoting the best interests of the thriving community which was gathering about him, the genial hospitality of the Wilkins home and the business sagacity of the head of the household being known and appreciated by all who came under its influence. In 1864, in company with Major Fifield, an old-time partner in the real estate business, he purchased the Stanwix hotel at Preston, and conducted this and a farm near by for two or three years. But his life, which had been spent in promoting others' interests, came to an untimely end in 1868, when he was but fifty-two years of age, his death removing from the county one of its best citizens. Being of a fraternal nature, Mr. Wilkins allied himself with the I. O. O. F. and the A. F. & A. M., in which circles his memory will ever be held dear. His widow survived him for many decades, and passed away May 21, 1900. She was a woman of sterling worth and character, and her good deeds are written on the hearts of her friends and relatives.

**Joseph Ober,** pioneer hotel-keeper, came to Minnesota with his family in 1855, and located near Brownsville, in Houston county, where he kept the "Seven by Nine." When the land office was removed from Brownsville to Chatfield, in 1856, Mr. Ober moved to Preston, and erected the Minnesota House, which under his

management became one of the most popular hotels in southern Minnesota. His wife, Mrs. Rosannah Chatfield Ober, was noted for her good cooking and kindly acts, being known by the old settlers as "Mother Ober," so called for her motherly deeds. Of their nine children, five are now living: L. M. Ober lives in Glendora, Cal. Medora E. Wilkins lives in Spring Valley. Chastina Kelley lives in Preston, Minn. C. H. Ober also lives in Preston. Joseph E. Ober is the state agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul at Austin. Mr. and Mrs. Ober are laid at rest in the cemetery overlooking the village of Preston.

**James Scott** was born in Springfield, N. Y., in 1836. In 1857 he came to Spring Valley, making the trip with a party which consisted of his brother, Thomas Scott, and wife; N. B. Smith and family; Dr. Gilbert and family; and the Peabody family. This energetic little band of sturdy people arrived at the spring from which the valley derives its name, and partaking of its sparkling water, unhitched their horses, and cast their lot with the good people who, few in number, had preceded them here. Mr. Scott pre-empted 160 acres of land and later worked at his trade as a tinner. Soon he erected a store building and engaged in the hardware business. In 1860 he married Roseltha N. Wilkins, daughter of Cordello Wilkins, and this union has resulted in seven children, four of whom are living. The oldest, Cordello, is in the express business in Spring Valley. W. J. Scott is in the harness and saddlery business in Centralia, Wash. Elmer Scott is in the "hack" business in the same place. Frank Scott is on a claim near Whitney, S. D. In 1887 Mr. Scott took his family to Egerton, Minn., and remained there until 1903. Then, hoping that a change of climate would be beneficial to his health, he took his wife and son Elmer to Centralia, Wash. In 1905 he was laid to rest in Spring Valley cemetery. Mr. Scott was a member of the Methodist church and a man highly respected for his sterling qualities, having the faculty of making friends with all of those with whom he came in contact. His widow lives in Centralia, Wash., and visits Spring Valley frequently, calling on her old friends and making many new ones.

**Lawrence Bar** was born in Bavaria, Germany, May 18, 1838. He came to America with his parents when five years of age, and was reared on a farm in Tioga county, New York. The family came to this county in 1856, and located in Forestville township, where they were among the first settlers. Lawrence remained at home until 1862, when he enlisted in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving in Company C for nine months, after which he was discharged on account of ill health. He then

returned to his home. In 1868 he began teaching school, and two years later started clerking in a store. Later he became interested in agricultural ventures. For several years he engaged in the boot and shoe business in Spring Valley, but in 1891 sold out and moved to Centralia, Wash., where he engaged in a similar business, conducting the same successfully until he had one of the largest establishments in southwestern Washington. Of late years the firm has been known as L. Bar & Son. In 1910, with other business men, he assisted in organizing the Farmers and Merchants' Bank, of Centralia, and although he did not participate actively in the management of the bank, he was honored by being elected president, and the bank was put on a substantial basis. December 30, 1911, when an attempt was made to rob the bank, Mr. Bar lost his life in protecting the funds, the assassin's bullet wiping out the life of a truly good man. Mr. Bar, from a humble station in life, by patient endeavor, persistent effort and business capacity, placed himself in affluent circumstances. But he never forgot those who were less fortunate. He was unostentatious and unselfish, and went through life with the respect and esteem of all. The widow, Harriet Wilkins Parsons Bar, lived in Spring Valley for thirty-six years. The kindness of her nature prompted her to charitable acts, and she made friends with all with whom she came in contact. She will long be remembered for her sterling worth. She, Hattie May Parsons, a daughter by a former marriage, and William L. Bar, cashier in the bank for which his father gave his life, all live in Centralia, Wash.

**L. D. Hamlin**, who is a native and life-long resident of this county, was born in York township, August 22, 1858, son of Alonzo Hamlin, the pioneer. He received his education in the common schools of his home township and grew up attending to those tasks which fall to the lot of the farmer's son. He spent the greater part of his boyhood in Forestville township, where he moved with his parents as a boy, and where he lived till twenty-three years of age, when he bought eighty acres in section 29, Forestville township. Here he built a home and lived a short time, then sold and purchased eighty acres in the same section, later adding to this farm by the purchase of eighty acres more. He farmed this 160 acres till 1904. In the latter year he sold his Forestville property and moved to Bloomfield township, just outside the Spring Valley city limits. He there lived five years, and in 1909 moved to Spring Valley, which has since been his home. Since 1906 he has been secretary of the creamery here and has rendered valuable service to the patrons of this institution. He still owns property in Bloomfield, in which his son



MR. AND MRS. K. T. SOLAND

George is also interested. Mr. Hamlin was married June 1, 1881, to Josephine Gates, of Spring Valley, daughter of George Gates. To Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin have been born three children. Lyle is now cashier of the First National Bank of Spring Valley. George, who married Helen Green, resides on the farm in Bloomfield. Fern is now Mrs. B. W. Hingeveld, of York township. In politics Mr. Hamlin is a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic blue lodge and chapter.

**K. T. Soland** was born in this county January 1, 1872, son of T. G. and Margaret Soland, now of Amherst township, the former born February 24, 1826, and the latter January 19, 1836. The subject of this biography attended the common schools of the county until he became eighteen years of age, after which he took up work on the farm with his father, and later clerked in his brother's store near home. He then formed a partnership with O. H. Gilbertson, of Spring Valley, and in 1906 purchased his partner's interest, since which time he has conducted the establishment by himself. He later purchased Mr. Gilbertson's Preston business, which he later disposed of to Mr. Bradburn. Mr. Soland handles all grades of foreign and domestic granite, and has a full equipment of marble-working apparatus, including a pneumatic plant for cutting and lettering. He erected and inscribed the J. P. Tibbetts monument in Preston, which weighs 30,000 pounds, and which is one of the largest and finest monuments in the county. Mr. Soland is vice-president of the Minnesota Retail Monument Association. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Store of Spring Valley, a member of the Commercial Club, captain of Hose Company No. 1 of the volunteer fire department of Spring Valley, and a member of the Equitable Fraternal Union. Politically, he endorses the tenets of the Republican party. Mr. Soland inherits his abundant energy from his father, who, though now advanced in years, is hale and hearty, and often walks from his farm to the village of Lanesboro, a distance of six miles. Mr. Soland married Dena Gelen, born in Spring Valley, November 10, 1878. The family church is the Norwegian Lutheran.

**Ole O. Gelen** was born in Norway, March 12, 1852, and there received his education, after which he came to America, locating first at Rushford, this county, where he learned and followed the painter's trade. A few years later he came to Spring Valley and here engaged at his trade, which vocation he still follows. He was married December 10, 1878, to Carrie Thompson, born in Norway, December 3, 1860. She came to America with her parents at three years of age, and located with them at Blooming

Prairie, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Gelen are the parents of two children. Oscar is a painter of Spring Valley. He married Martha Sukow and they have one son, Maynard Wesley. Dena is the wife of K. T. Soland, a business man of Spring Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Gelen are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

George Gates and Adaline Phelps Gates, his wife, came to Fillmore county in 1866, and spent the remainder of their days here. George Gates was a native of New York, where he obtained his early education, receiving his diploma from Jesse T. Peek. He followed teaching for thirty-three years. In his latter years he was engaged in farming. He died in 1904, at the age of eighty-seven. His wife was a native of Ohio. She died in 1903, at the age of seventy-eight.

Forest Edward Langworthy, the genial editor who has been one of the newspaper men of southern Minnesota a large part of his life, was born in Grand Meadow, Minn., February 17, 1861, son of B. F. and Sarah (Clemens) Langworthy. His mother was a native of Vermont and was of the same Clemens family of which "Mark Twain" was a member. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools until about fourteen years of age. He then attended the La Crosse (Wis.) high schools until nineteen years of age. Subsequently he went into the printing business with his father on the "Mercury," first at Grand Meadow and then at Austin. From Austin the "Mercury" was moved to Spring Valley, and since that time Mr. Langworthy has been in that village. In 1903 he purchased the "Vidette," and has since combined the two papers, and now issues the "Mercury-Vidette." He is at present very pleasantly located in a building on Church street, which was erected for the accommodation of his plant. In politics he is a Republican, but has never sought public office. On December 21, 1885, he was united in marriage with Blanche E. Beers, and to this union have been born three sons. Earl Ray is clergyman. Elmer De Loss is an ensign of the United States Navy, having finished his course at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1910. Glenn Franklin is a student in the Spring Valley high school.

B. F. Langworthy, deceased, was born in Vermont, January 20, 1822, and lived in his native state till 1834, when the family moved to Illinois. In 1846 he went to Oshkosh, Wis., where he opened a store. In 1856 he came to this county and located in Chatfield, where he was connected with the banking firm of Langworthy, O'Farrell & Company for two years. In the fall



of 1859 he was elected to the legislature from Mower county, to which he had moved the year previous. He later became route agent for the railroad mail service and moved to La Crosse, Wis., where he lived four years. In 1880 he and his son, Forest E., established the Grand Meadow "Mercury." Later they moved their paper to Austin and later to Spring Valley. In 1849 he married Sarah M. Clemens and to them were born two children. Emma C. married D. L. Tanner, of Mower county. Forest E. is a newspaper publisher in Spring Valley. Mr. Langworthy lived a long and active life, which was filled with useful work for his friends and his community. He died January 21, 1907, and was survived by his wife less than three years, she dying in August, 1910.

**J. H. Haslam** was born in Illinois, November 8, 1850, son of James Haslam. The family moved from Illinois in 1855 and located in section 13, Bloomfield township, this county, where the father took a claim of 160 acres. Here the family home was built and here they continued to live till 1868, when they went to Kansas, where the father died in 1870. The subject of this sketch received a meager education in the common schools and then assisted his mother and his younger brothers and sisters. When he was thirty years of age he purchased a farm in section 36, Bloomfield, where he still resides. Here he erected a house and other necessary buildings and has added to his original buildings from time to time as more space was needed. He was of thrifty inclinations and by careful investments and good management he and his wife were enabled to buy additional tracts of land in the locality till they had about 800 acres. He keeps about seventy-five head of full-blooded Durham cattle, markets annually a goodly number of Chester-White hogs, and has from eighteen to twenty horses for farm and driving purposes. On December 1, 1880, he married Sabina Le Fevere, who was born December 1, 1860. This union has been blessed with two children. H. V. was born October 28, 1881, and lives on a part of the home place near his parents. He married Edith Kingsbury and they have one child, Elizabeth Lilly. Annie L. was born November 16, 1883. She married H. L. Eggriehs. They reside in Bloomfield, and have one child, Dale Haslam.

**Henry M. Hellickson** is one of the progressive and representative farmers of Bloomfield township, a leader in his community, and a worthy son of staunch pioneer forebears. Born in Racine county, Wisconsin, November 18, 1852, a son of Matthew W. and Anna Hellickson, the territorial pioneers, he was by them brought to Fillmore county as a child of one and one-half years. He

received his education in the common schools of Bloomfield township, and worked with his father. Eventually he started life for himself on a 120-acre farm, on which he toiled and labored, prospering with the years, and adding to his property from time to time, until at present he owns 374 acres in sections 16, 20 and 21, Bloomfield township. He carries on farming and stock raising along the latest improved methods, and is a successful man in every way. Politically, Mr. Hellickson has chosen to remain independent. He is a trustee of his church, a stockholder in the elevator and creamery, and has been a member of the school board for six years. The subject of this sketch married Anna Langum, in October, 1885. They are the parents of nine children: Arthur Milton, William Elmer, Frank Herbert, Ellen Henrietta, Ella Agnes, Alton Raymond, Allen Clifford, Walter (deceased), and Minnie Josephine. Ellen and Ella and Alton and Allen are twins. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Matthew W. Hellickson, a territorial pioneer, and one of the first to settle in Bloomfield township, was born in Tinn, Telemarken, Norway, February 12, 1815, and came to America at an early day, settling in Wisconsin. In 1854 he left Racine county, near Milwaukee, with his brother, Ole, at the head of a band of Norwegian pioneers, headed for the west. Upon reaching Fillmore county, the party decided to settle in Bloomfield township, and Matthew W. selected a claim on section 21, where he broke the land, erected buildings and engaged in agricultural pursuits, there spending the remainder of his days. He passed away in the fall of 1897, and his wife, Anna, died in February, 1911. They were the parents of seven children: Hellick (deceased); Julia (deceased); Henry M., of Bloomfield; Martin, of Stearns county, this state; Edward (deceased); Hellick (second), of Chicago; and an unnamed infant, now deceased. Matthew W. Hellickson, or Mathias Hellickson, as he was more commonly known, was one of the makers of the county. Sturdy of body and staunch of spirit, undaunted by hardships and undismayed by difficulties, he was an important factor in the development of his township and community. Shrewd, honest and far-sighted, he encouraged his fellow-settlers and fellow-countrymen during the disastrous year of 1857, and bade them to look to the future which he so clearly foresaw. Never shirking his duty, ever upholding that which he believed to be right, he lived his life faithfully from day to day, and won the esteem of all with whom he came in contact. It is such lives as his which teach a lesson of what sturdy perseverance and hard work can accomplish in this land of opportunity. Mr. Hellickson's faith in the

county has been justified, and he lived to see his hopes realized, his declining years being filled with all the blessings which a prosperous career, the respect of a community and the devotion of a family can bring.

James Lee, a substantial citizen of Fountain township, was born in Dwainsburg, Schenectady county, N. Y., June 30, 1833, son of Thomas and Mary (Sarsfield) Lee, also natives of New York state, where they devoted their life to farming. James came west to Whitewater, Wis., in 1852, and worked out as a farm hand until 1854, when he came to Minnesota, and took a claim in Pleasant Hill township, Winona county, where he carried on farming until 1869, when he came to this county and purchased eighty acres in section 31, Fountain township, which he broke and developed and brought to a good stage of cultivation. As the years passed, he prospered, and in time acquired another forty acres, located in section 30, adjoining his original purchase. When the family first came to this county they moved into a log shanty which was on the place. This was soon replaced with a frame dwelling, which was destroyed by fire about thirty years ago, after which the present home was erected. He has also erected a substantial set of outbuildings, and the neat appearance of the place speaks well for the thrift of the owner. Mr. Lee was married at Winona, March 31, 1862, to Sarah J. Preston, and this union has been blessed with three children. Ella is now Mrs. Robert Shipton, of Washington, Sumner township, this county. Frank is a cigar manufacturer and merchant at Billings, Mont. W. H. is a real estate dealer in Spring Valley. An adopted daughter, Ethel, is a teacher in the home district, 77, and lives at home. Mr. Lee has served as treasurer of this district for several years. The family faith is that of the United Brethren church. J. S. and Mercy Ann (Way) Preston, parents of Mrs. Lee, were natives of New York state, and came to Wisconsin in an early day, settling in Pleasant Hill township, Winona county, this state, in 1855. Some years later they moved to Homer township, in the same county, where they carried on farming for many years, after which they moved to Winona, where Mrs. Preston died. Mr. Preston now lives with his daughter, Mrs. James Lee, of Fountain.

Cyrus L. Wooldridge, now deceased, successful farmer, efficient member of the legislature, enthusiastic church worker, and capable man of affairs, was born in Clearfield, Pa., September 16, 1853, son of Edward and Mary (Smith) Wooldridge, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Minnesota in 1860, and settled near Marion, in Olmsted county, later coming to Sumner township, where they passed the remainder of their days, the father dying

March 22, 1901, and the mother May 13, 1901. Cyrus L. grew to manhood on the home farm, pursuing his studies in the district schools of his neighborhood and the high schools of Chatfield and Rochester. He also had the great advantage of a close and affectionate companionship with his father, whom in after life it was said he closely resembled, a man deeply religious, a student of the Bible and of human nature, a man often sought for counsel and advice because of his rare judgment and sterling integrity. At an early age, Cyrus joined the United Brethren church, as the result of an old-fashioned camp meeting held in the vicinity, and his after life was ever permeated with a deep religious conviction. Being the second son in a family of twelve, and moreover the son of thrifty, hard-working parents, he naturally learned to work and to look upon work as the honorable means of securing a living and a competence. After he attained the years of manhood, he bought a farm adjoining the home place and lived there the remainder of his life. He toiled and prospered for many years, attaining a commanding position in the community, doing faithful service in various school, town and county offices. In 1893 and again in 1895 he was sent to the lower house of the Minnesota state legislature, where he was known for his unswerving honor and unfailing good sense. At the time of his death he had received the nomination for the position as county commissioner from the second district. He was also vice-president of the First National Bank, of Stewartville. He was the administrator of many estates, and in this capacity won the gratitude of those whom he served. His unexpected death, September 23, 1910, as the result of an operation, was sincerely mourned throughout the community in which for so many years he had been so prominent a figure. At the time of his death a newspaper said: "He was a strong, useful, Christian man, and will be greatly missed by the community, but especially by his own family, the members of which were wont to say, when any important subject was under discussion, 'Let us talk it over with father,' or, 'I will see what father thinks about it.'"

The subject of this sketch was married, September 28, 1873, to Lucy A. Linton, born in Clayton county, Iowa, May 9, 1852, daughter of Thomas C. and Esther (Phillips) Linton, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of New York state. The Lintons came to Fillmore county in 1856, and settled in Jordan township, the father dying in January, 1884, and the mother in April, 1862. Mr. and Mrs. Wooldridge were blessed with four children. Ervin was born August 24, 1874, married Gertrude Loucks, lives at Maxbas, N. D., and has two children: Hobart and Cyrus. Edward T. was born October 8, 1876, married Edna Kendall, lives on section 14, Jordan township, and has three chil-

dren: Curtin, Lucy and Arden. Homer was born January 14, 1882, married Jennie Crofoot, and is assistant cashier in the First National Bank of Stewartville. Walter was born July 29, 1884, married Alta Truesdell, and resides on section 9, Sumner township.

**Alfred Crosby**, now deceased, was born in Oneida county, New York, April 16, 1835, son of Isaac and Mary (Jefferds) Crosby. At the age of twenty-three he came west with his parents and settled with them on a farm in sections 18 and 19, Chatfield township, where he assisted his father and brothers in developing and tilling a farm, the family becoming one of the most honored and respected in the community. At the time of his father's death, he inherited a part of the home farm, and there followed farming the remainder of his days. He was a staunch Republican in politics, and served the town as supervisor, and his school district as director. His death, October 10, 1907, was sincerely mourned by a wide circle of friends. The subject of this sketch was married, September 7, 1861, to Jerusha W. Thacher, born September 9, 1837, in Forest Lake, Susquehanna county, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Crosby are the parents of five children: Minnie M., Albert T., Charles D., Glidden and Cormella. Minnie M. is now Mrs. James Moore. Glidden is dead. Albert T. and Charles D. conduct the home farm, and Charles D., Cormella and the mother still live in the old homestead.

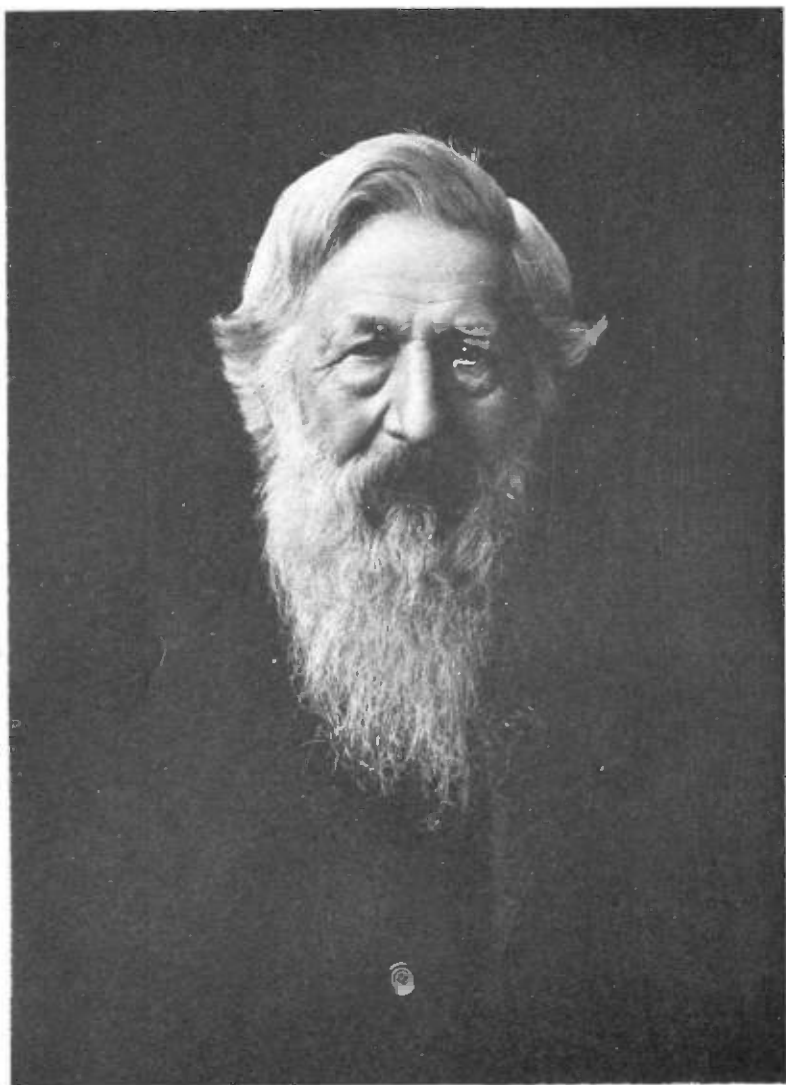
**Walter E. Craine**, manufacturer, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, January 19, 1848, son of Giles and Eliza (Holden) Craine, with whom he came to Winona county, this state, in 1856. After receiving his education he learned the blacksmith trade, an occupation he followed in Chatfield, this county, from 1876 to 1895, part of the time in partnership with his father. From 1895 to 1898 he was engaged in operating a drilling machine, clover huller and thresher. In 1898 he came to Jordan township, purchased forty-five acres of land, and opened a blacksmith shop, saw mill and machine foundry, which he is still successfully conducting. He is a staunch Republican. Being a good citizen, he is well thought of in the community, and enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellow-men. Mr. Craine was married, November 10, 1869, to Edna Cowley, born in Wisconsin, December 26, 1852, daughter of John and Marinda (Rice) Cowley. Mr. and Mrs. Craine have five children: Altie married Edward Crowson; Allie married Claude Stocker; Minnie married Hugh Greenlee; Verna married James Clickner; and May died April 27, 1903.

Giles Craine and Eliza (Holden) Craine, parents of Walter E. Craine, were natives of New York state. In 1847 they moved to

Illinois from Ohio, and in 1856 came to Winona county, this state, where they lived until 1876, when they came to Chatfield, this county, where the father worked at his trade as a blacksmith the balance of his days. He died in January, 1897, and his wife passed away in February, 1895.

John Cowley, father of Mrs. Walter E. Craine, was born on the Isle of Man, and married Marinda Rice, a native of Vermont. They came to Winona county, this state, in January, 1859, the father dying there in 1880, and the mother in Chatfield in June, 1907.

**Bennett Taylor**, now deceased, might well be called the Father of Orchards in Fillmore county. It was through his efforts that many of the orchards of to-day were planted, and almost wholly due to his interest and knowledge that they were properly cared for. He was born in Pennsylvania, May 10, 1830, and until fifteen years of age lived in Green county, where he attended the common schools. He then came west and settled in Quincy, Ill., where he learned the cabinet-making trade. The land of promise attracted him and in 1856 he came to Minnesota and located in Forestville village, then a town of four hundred people and a center for the marketing in this section of country. He there opened a shop and did a cabinet business until 1864, when the flood destroyed his shop. As soon as he arrived here he became interested in growing small fruit. In 1864 he bought land in section 14, Forestville township, where he thereafter made his home, interesting himself in the growing of apples, grapes, berries and other fruit. When he fully realized what the possibilities of the fruit culture meant to southern Minnesota, he went energetically about the business of encouraging farmers to plant the fruit vines and trees. He raised stock for their use and put in all his time assisting those in his locality to get started. In a short time he had a thoroughly organized nursery, and several salesmen in the country. So anxious was he to have Fillmore county go forward as an apple-raising district that he sold apple trees under contract at one dollar each, planted the tree on the buyer's land, and cultivated and cared for it till it came to bearing, taking his pay, without interest, from the first apples the tree produced. The Forestville Nursery Company continued to do a thriving business till 1884, when the health of Mr. Taylor began to fail. After that time the nursery was taken over by C. R. Morgan & Son, who continued to do business in a much larger way, handling both a wholesale and retail trade until 1905. Since that time Mr. Morgan has been a large shipper of apples and other fruits of his own raising, having one of the largest orchards in the state. Aside from his work as a cabinet-



BELA K. INGALLS

maker and nurseryman, Mr. Taylor was the patentee of several very useful inventions, including a grain register, a hand cultivator, a bee swarm catcher and a honeycomb leveler. He was a man of large public interest and was ever active in movements for the general good. In 1862 he married Hannah Broadbent, and to them was born one son, Herbert Spencer Taylor, now of Forestville, and one daughter, who is now Mrs. Courtland R. Morgan, of Forestville township. Since the death of Mr. Taylor, August 10, 1896, his wife has lived in California, at Santa Clara, where she has many relatives and friends.

**William Henry Kendall**, deceased, was born at Roxbury, Vt., July 22, 1844, son of William H. and Lucinda (Beckwith) Kendall. Until twenty-one years of age he remained at home with his parents and attended school. In 1865 he came west to Minnesota and in 1873 purchased a farm in section 4, Sumner township, where he carried on general farming for the remainder of his life. Mr. Kendall was a progressive and ambitious man and made many improvements on his farm by erecting good buildings and clearing and cultivating the soil. He was a Republican in political views, and served as member of the school board for many years. He married Anna Eliza Myers, and to this marriage were born six children: C. L., now of Arkansas; J. W., of Olmsted county, Minnesota; Edna, the wife of Ed. Wooldridge, of Chatfield; Irvin H., of Norwich, N. D.; Myrtie Jane, who died in 1897; and Frank A., who resides at Norwich, N. D. Mr. Kendall died on March 22, 1887, at the age of forty-two years. His death removed from the community a respected citizen and beloved friend and neighbor, and a devoted husband and father. Mrs. Anna E. (Myers) Kendall was born August 24, 1852, in Rockford, Ill., daughter of John A. and Frances (Strange) Myers, who came to Minnesota in 1857, and settled in Olmsted county, Pleasant Grove township, where they engaged in general farming for many years. The father died in 1882 and the mother in 1886. Mrs. Kendall now resides on the old family homestead in Sumner.

**Bela K. Ingalls** was born in Erie county, New York, April 3, 1833, son of David and Elizabeth (Richardson) Ingalls, natives of Vermont. David Ingalls came to Minnesota in 1856, and died in his son's home some years later. Bela K. received his education in New York state common schools and later assisted his father on the home place. In 1854 he came to Stillwater, Minn., and to this county in 1855, taking a claim of sixty acres in section 31, Forestville township. He here worked at farming till war time, when he enlisted in Company K, Minnesota Heavy Artillery, which was stationed at Chattanooga, Tenn. After the war



he returned to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture on his former claim. He added to his original holdings from time to time till he now has a large and very well cared for farm of 278½ acres. In 1884 he moved to the location where he has since lived. Though he does not now do much in the way of active farming, he still superintends the work of the entire place. Formerly he raised much stock. He is a stockholder in the Ostrander Creamery, and formerly kept an excellent herd of thirty Jersey cows. He raises from twenty-five to forty head of Duroc Red hogs annually and keeps four horses for farm work. Mr. Ingalls is a Republican in politics, but never aspired to public office. He has his enjoyment from the calm oversight and improvement of his farm and possessions, rather than in the exciting arena of public strife.

**William Baxter Nicholls**, the pioneer, now deceased, was born in England, December 16, 1828, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Baxter) Nicholls, who brought him to America in 1847 and located in Kane county, Illinois. The subject of this sketch came to Minnesota in August, 1856, and located a claim on the Root river in Mower county. He was burned out a month later, and then rented various farms until he could save enough money to pay for his claim. Then he returned to Illinois. Two years later he came to Fillmore county and purchased eighty acres in Bloomfield township, engaging in general farming, and increasing his holdings until he had 280 acres in Fillmore county and 160 acres in Burley county, North Dakota. He was married at Chicago, February 20, 1853, to Elizabeth Larrington, born in Cambridge-shire, England, November 7, 1837, daughter of Robert Larrington and Sarah (Smith) Larrington. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls were the parents of ten children: James F., of North Dakota; Loren and Lora, deceased; Ida, now Mrs. Robert E. McNec, of Bloomfield township; William, of Canada; Charles, of Spring Valley; Flora, now Mrs. Johnson, of Minneapolis; Edwin, of Canada; Albert, who conducts the home farm; and Sidney B., of Canada. Mr. Nicholls died June 19, 1910.

**R. H. Reynolds**, retired farmer, living in Jordan township, was born in Sumner, November 24, 1869, son of William R. and Rachel Reynolds. He attended the district school near home until seventeen years of age, and, until his father retired from active life, worked with him on the home farm, assuming its entire responsibility in 1897. The property comprises 160 acres in sections 20 and 29, and here for many years Mr. Reynolds carried on general farming, together with stock raising and dairying. He raises blooded Shorthorn cattle, both for market and



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT E. McNEE

dairy purposes, breeds Oxford sheep, Red swine, and farm horses for home use and sale. For seven years Mr. Reynolds suffered from the effects of being kicked by a horse, and eventually gave over the management of his farm to a renter, though still residing thereon. He is a Republican in his political opinions, but never sought public office. On May 25, 1902, he was united in marriage with Margaret E. Mower, youngest daughter of John Mower. She was born in Jordan township, this county, August 28, 1880, attended the district schools, and completed her studies in the Spring Valley high school. To this marriage four children have been born: Emeline, Robert, Harvey and Margaret, all at home. Mr. Reynolds was reared in the Friends faith, his father's family being devout Quakers.

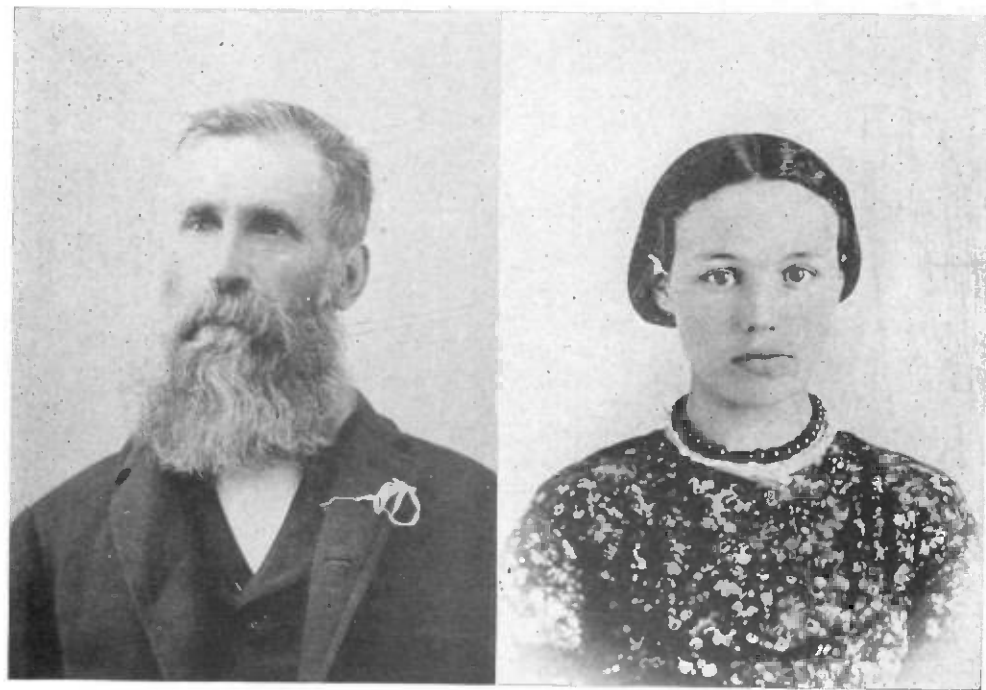
**Robert E. McNee**, a representative citizen, was born in Delhi, Delaware county, N. Y., September 20, 1848, son of William B. and Susan Jane (Craig) McNee, the pioneers. He came with them to Illinois in 1854 and to Minnesota in 1855, growing to manhood on the home farm in Bloomfield township. He now owns 320 acres in sections 14 and 15, Bloomfield, which he farmed with success for many years. He rents a part of his land and is reaping the well deserved fruits of a life well spent. His home is spacious and comfortable, and restful alike to family and stranger. Mr. McNee inclines toward the tenets of the Republican party. While in no sense a politician or an office-seeker, his duty has called him to serve in several public positions, and he has served as supervisor of his township for several years, as well as in the various school offices of his district. Aside from his farm holdings, he owns stock in the First National Bank of Spring Valley. Mr. McNee was married, November 27, 1890, to Ida E. Nicholls, born in Chicago, April 3, 1861, daughter of William B. and Elizabeth (Larrington) Nicholls, the pioneers. This union has been blessed with three children, all of whom died in infancy.

**William Hazelton**, deceased, was one of the early pioneers of Fillmore county. Born in Canada, he there grew to manhood and was educated. Wishing to start in life on his own responsibility, he came to the States and secured employment of various farmers in Ohio, where he met and married Mary Welch, a native of Maine. For several years after their marriage they made their home in Ohio, but in 1856 came to Minnesota and pre-empted a claim in section 31, Sumner township, where he spent the remainder of his life. He broke the wild land, fitted it for cultivation, erected suitable buildings, and made many improvements. Mr. and Mrs. Hazelton were the parents of ten children: Angeline

and Hiram are dead; Mary lives in Racine, Minn.; William lives in Becker county, Minnesota; Frank and Emma are dead; Martha lives in Washington; Orin lives in Sumner township, this county; Lorin is dead; Francis lives in Sumner township. Mr. Hazelton died March 4, 1885, and his wife died October 11, 1899.

**William B. McNee** was born in Delhi, N. Y., November 16, 1815, and was married February 27, 1845, to Susan Jane Craig. In 1854 they came west to Illinois, and in 1855 came to Minnesota, taking a pre-emption claim in section 13, Spring Valley township, and secured Peter S. De Groodt to pre-empt in section 14, Bloomfield township. Here they began a life of hardship, and underwent all the privations incident to life in those days. But soon buildings were erected and the land broken, and Mr. McNee became a successful cattle raiser and wheat grower, adding to his acreage, and becoming a prominent man. In 1890 he moved to Spring Valley and lived in that city until his death, January 23, 1904. His widow died January 30, 1911.

**James Tabor**, deceased, one of Jordan's earliest settlers, was born in England, July 23, 1795, and obtained his education by attending evening school, while employed in the day time. At fourteen years of age, he learned the wagonmaker's trade, a vocation he followed for three years. At the end of this period he entered the English army, serving four and one-half years, until honorably discharged. In 1817 he was united in marriage with Jane Exton. In 1830 they left their native land for America, and landed at Quebec, going from there to Montreal on a flat-boat, thence to Wellington. Mrs. Jane (Exton) Tabor died in 1832, and the following year Mr. Tabor married Ann Hill Nash, also a native of England. They lived in Simcoe county about eighteen years, where Mr. Tabor was employed in farming and running a whipsaw. He furnished the first lumber for the first boat operated on Lake Simcoe. They subsequently moved from Simcoe county to Waterloo county, where Mr. Tabor took a 200-acre tract of land, being among the first settlers in the township of Marysborough. Mr. Tabor improved the land, erecting a house and necessary outbuildings, and there resided until February, 1855, when they came to this county as pioneers, and took land on section 32, Jordan township. It is said that the first religious services in town were held at their home. Mr. Tabor was one of the judges at the first election held in the town of Jordan, and was more or less identified with the early history and affairs of Jordan township. He continued to live on his farm until the time of his death, which occurred June 11,



MR. AND MRS. JOHN TABOR

1869, after which Mrs. Tabor made her home with her children until she passed away. By his marriage to Jane Exton, Mr. Tabor had six children: Jane, born March 24, 1819, died July 9, 1833; Thomas, born April 29, 1821, is also dead; William J., born August 14, 1823, is dead; Sarah was born April 29, 1826; Ruth, born June 13, 1828, died May 1, 1831; Ruth, born in September, 1832, died in October of the same year. By his marriage with Ann Hill Nash, Mr. Tabor had nine children: Mercy, born November 23, 1834, died in August, 1844; John was born March 14, 1837; Charles W. was born February 23, 1839; James was born February 8, 1840, and died in September, 1844; Albert was born December 21, 1842, and died August 18, 1844; James was born December 27, 1844; Henry J. was born September 8, 1847; Mercy A. was born May 14, 1850; Matthew A. was born March 3, 1855.

**Orin Hazelton**, a respected citizen of Sumner township, was born in Ohio on April 20, 1854, son of William and Mary (Welch) Hazelton. He attended school until twenty-one years of age, and then continued to work on the home farm with his father for five years. He eventually purchased the old homestead, which he operates at the present time, and, together with his general farming industries, Mr. Hazelton raises stock. He makes a specialty of raising Duroc-Jersey and Ohio Improved Chester-White hogs, also good farm horses and dairy cattle, and Barred Rock fowls. Politically, he is a Republican, and he has been elected to the office of town chairman for several years, serving in that office to the satisfaction of his fellow-citizens. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge of Pleasant Grove, and the Modern Woodmen, of Racine. On December 21, 1879, Mr. Hazelton married Maranda Coulter, born December 25, 1860, in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, daughter of James and Emma (Allen) Coulter, the former of whom died at the home of Orin Hazelton, February 11, 1903, and the latter at Winnebago City, Minn., December 9, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Hazelton have six children: Lorin C., Lindon Vincent, Laura Viola, Neva Grace, Earl J. and Clifford. Lorin C., Lindon V., Earl J. and Clifford are in Edgley, N. D. Laura V. is the wife of Henry C. Desler. Neva Grace is the wife of Herbert Wallace.

**John Tabor**, for considerably more than half a century a resident of Jordan township, was born in Canada, March 14, 1837, son of James and Ann Hill (Nash) Tabor. He was educated in the schools of Canada and the United States, and when coming to Jordan in 1855, at the age of eighteen years, assumed in full the responsibilities and work of a man. He pre-empted a claim,

built a small cabin, grubbed out the land, and started agricultural operations. The small log house was replaced by a larger log house, and this, moved several rods south, is now a part of the present comfortable home. Both of the original buildings were of hewn logs. Poor health prevented Mr. Tabor from serving his country in the field during the Civil War. He now owns eighty acres of land, on which general farming and stock raising are successfully conducted. Politically a Republican, he has served as a member of the town and school boards with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his fellow-citizens. He attends the Washington Methodist church and contributes to its support. The subject of this sketch was married August 1, 1856, to Anna Mower, a native of England, and they have four children: Fred Edgar, on the home farm; Mary Ann, wife of Charles Gammell; Arthur Albert, of Jordan; and Emma Eunice, wife of Elisha B. Marlow, of Minneapolis. Mrs. Anna (Mower) Tabor died September 3, 1871, and Mr. Tabor was married in December, 1872, to Jerusha A. Pebbles Tedman. She died October 6, 1904. Mr. Tabor is a thorough believer in civic righteousness, and is affiliated with the Good Templars.

Fred Edgar Tabor, the son, is a representative citizen, and a member of the town board. In 1906 he took charge of the home farm, since which date he has conducted the place and looked after his father's interests. He married Jessie E. Irving, of Hyde Park, Dutchess county, N. Y., and they are the parents of five children: Mildred J., Earl C., Zillah, Erna G. and Raymond J.

Edward W. Clark was born in Illinois, July 12, 1877, son of O. G. Clark, and came to Minnesota in 1881, with his parents, who settled in York township, this county, where they bought a farm and made the family home for fifteen years, the father now living in Colorado. Edward W. received his early education in the common schools of the locality in which he lived, and studied three years in Rochester, attending school till he was about eighteen years of age. He then remained at home with his parents till he was twenty years of age, at which time he began life on his own responsibility, and bought land in Spring Valley township, where he made his home and farmed till 1906, when he sold his Spring Valley farm and bought 160 acres in Sumner township, section 20. He is here fast making this land into one of the excellent farms of the locality. Though he follows general farming, he endeavors to feed most of his crops and market the live stock rather than sell the grain. He keeps about thirty-five head of Shorthorn cattle, with a good portion of them milkers; has about sixty-five head of a good breed of Shropshire sheep, and raises Durock-Jersey Red swine. He has recently

erected a large new barn and plans on making still further improvements in the way of buildings in the very near future. In December, 1897, he married Grada Meinen, a native of Minnesota, and to them have been born two sons, Erwin Stoddard and Floyd William, both of whom are students in the local schools. In politics Mr. Clark is a Republican, but has never sought public office. He is a member of the Woodmen Lodge.

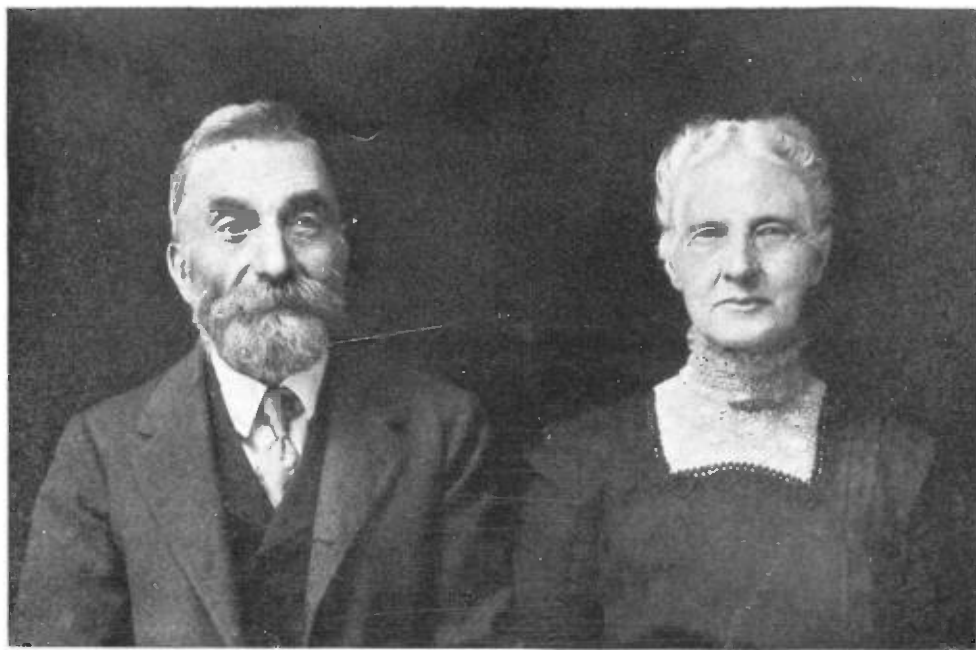
**William W. Parkinson**, writer, horticulturist, statistician and church worker, was born in Edwardsville, Madison county, Ill., July 14, 1837, son of William C. and Mary (McKee) Parkinson. In 1841 he removed with his parents to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and there received his education and grew to manhood. In the fall of 1854 he came to Minnesota for a short time, returning in the spring of 1855 with two yoke of oxen, which he sold and bought a span of horses, with which he teamed from Chatfield to Winona until July 15 of the same year, when he went back to Wisconsin. He returned again in the spring of 1857, and acquired 160 acres in section 19, Sumner township, and later added to this by purchasing forty acres adjoining and twenty acres of timber in Spring Valley township. In 1859 he built a house and there he lived until 1893, when he rented the farm to his son and moved to Pleasant Grove, Olmsted county, where he still resides. Mr. Parkinson is an independent voter, but a believer in the platform of the Prohibitionist party, having formerly been a Democrat. While affiliated with the latter party, he was a member of various committees, and at one time was sent to a state convention. He has been justice of the peace eight years and notary public sixteen years, and still holds these offices. He served nine months as town treasurer by appointment. As a church worker, Mr. Parkinson is widely known. He has been a Bible student since he was old enough to read, and has been a Bible teacher for many years. He has also been an ordained elder in the church for twenty years, and has been a delegate to many of the national conventions of the church. As the result of his Bible research, he has written two pamphlets, one on the Abrogation of the Jewish Law, and one on the Action and Design of Baptism, which are important additions to the literature of the Christian church, of which he is a prominent member. Aside from these writings, he was one of the numerous farm-correspondents of the "Orange Judd Farmer" for ten years, and for twenty years chief statistician in Fillmore and Olmsted counties for the Agricultural Department at Washington. He has also done considerable other work of a statistical nature. As a farmer he was very successful, and as a horticulturist he raised the first apples in the vicinity of his farm. He also bought



the first reaper in the neighborhood where he lived. All in all, he is a useful citizen, and it was with regret that his neighbors saw him leave the county, their regret being manifested by a reception which was tendered him, and in the many valuable presents which he received. Fraternally, Mr. Parkinson is associated with the Masonic Lodge. He was worshipful master four years, district deputy grand master one year, treasurer four years, and the present chaplain. He is also a member of the Territorial Pioneers and of the Fillmore County Old Settlers' Association. Mr. Parkinson was married July 15, 1855, the day after his eighteenth birthday, to Augusta M. Freeman, the ceremony being performed by George M. Gere, a justice of the peace of Chatfield. To this union were born four children, two boys and two girls. Almon F. lives in Mason City, Iowa; Mary E. is the wife of Frank A. Neill, of this county. Frost C. lives in Stewartville, Minn. Jennie B., wife of Walter Scott, lives in Pleasant Grove. Mrs. Augusta M. (Freeman) Parkinson died May 21, 1909, and on October 6, 1910, Mr. Parkinson married Mrs. Sarah W. Whiston, of Austin, Minn.

Mr. Parkinson is one of the oldest of the pioneers and has many interesting stories to tell of the early days. Galena, Ill., was the nearest railroad point; Decorah, Iowa, fifty miles away, was the place at which supplies were purchased, and grain was hauled to Winona, fifty miles away. Until the railroads came closer, Mr. Parkinson himself often brought the mail from Winona to Chatfield in his water pail, while teaming, in 1855.

George McMaster, deceased, one of the pioneer residents of Fillmore county, was born in Massachusetts, April 27, 1830, and grew to manhood in his home state. In 1849 he went to Vermont, there working at his trade as a spinner. Four years later he moved to Illinois, and in February, 1855, drove from Galena, Ill., to Decorah, Iowa. In the latter city he joined Captain Elliott's expedition and came to this county, where he located a farm on section thirty, Canton township. There for several years Mr. McMaster made his home, enduring many hardships and privations. In 1864 he enlisted in Company D, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and served one year. After being honorably discharged, he returned to his home in this county. Mr. McMaster built the first shanty on the Territorial road, between Elliot and Big Spring. In 1869 he disposed of his farm in section thirty and moved to section twenty-eight, Canton township, where he erected a house of hewn logs and bought 160 acres of land. He later sold eighty acres of this, and still later bought forty more, making 120 acres in the present farm. He devoted considerable time to stock raising, and became one of the successful farmers



MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. MILLER

in the township. He married Martha Cadman in Vermont, and through all the years of privation she proved a most estimable helpmeet. To them were born Edmund J., now living in Washington; Mona M., deceased; William J., of Canton; George J., of Lanesboro; David, of Canton; and Mary J., now Mrs. Fred Castor, of Canton. Mrs. McMaster entered into rest September 12, 1869, and Mr. McMaster's death occurred in April, 1910.

Joseph Langlie was born in Norway, January 18, 1849, son of Andfind and Berret Langlie. After attending school, he was employed in a mercantile establishment. In 1882 he crossed the ocean, landed at Boston, and came directly to Lanesboro, this county, where he was employed by his brother in the general store of Nelson & Langlie, where he acquired a large acquaintance which has proved invaluable to him in more recent years. He was with Nelson & Langlie till 1894, when he left their employ and opened a grocery and bakery on his own responsibility. He conducted this business, meeting with excellent success till 1907, at which time he sold the entire enterprise. Since that time he has been extensively interested in Dakota land, but is now living a practically retired life. Mr. Langlie is a member of the Lutheran church and supports the principles of the Republican party. He married Bardine Oyen, and to this union have been born eight children: Bjorny, Bennie (deceased), Margaret, Agnes, Oswald, Ingvar, Henry, and Arthur (deceased). Bjorny married Carrie Dahl, and they have three children. Margaret married P. A. Kvearnum, and they have one child. Agnes married H. C. DeVilliers, and they have two children. Oswald married Pearl Christianson.

J. C. Miller, retired farmer, living in the village of Lanesboro, was born in Upper Canada, August 8, 1848. During the fall of 1857 he came to Minnesota with his parents, who located in Amherst township, where his father purchased a farm. Later the family moved to a farm in the eastern part of Preston township, where the mother died in 1898, and the father in 1899. J. C. was a student in the country schools when a boy and remained with his parents on the home farm until twenty-seven years of age. From 1875 to 1902 he farmed on property which he purchased in Preston. During the latter year, Mr. Miller sold his farm and moved to Lanesboro, where he is spending his days surrounded by many comforts which his years of toil and industry have earned for him. His garden, which is one of the most productive in the village, occupies a greater part of his time during the spring and summer months. While on the farm he served thirteen years on the school board of district 136.

Ellen, daughter of Robert and Jeannette McCallum, became the wife of Mr. Miller, February 22, 1876, and they are parents of one son, Charles, now conducting a photographic studio in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Miller make a home for Mrs. Miller's mother, the father having been killed by lightning.

**James H. Leary** was born in Owatonna, Minn., October 10, 1866, son of Daniel and Catherine (McCarthy) Leary. He attended the parochial schools at Winona, the grammar schools at Lanesboro, and St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, Iowa. Having completed his college course, he assisted his father, Daniel Leary, who was an extensive contractor on railroad work. Next he accepted a position with the Cudahy Packing Company, where he remained four years. Not wishing to be employed by others longer, he decided to enter business on his own responsibility. In 1908 he and Michael Barrett formed what has since been known as the Lanesboro Roller Mill Company. Both men continue actively in the milling work, and do a general milling business, with particular attention to their output of flour. Mollie Scanlan, daughter of Michael and Anna (Euright) Scanlan, became his wife, and to them have been born four children: Mary, John S., Catherine A. and Elizabeth. Mr. Leary is a member of the Catholic church. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, also the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In political views Mr. Leary is a Republican, but has never sought public preferment.

**George J. McMaster**, a resident of the village of Lanesboro, was born in Canton township, August 18, 1862, son of George and Martha (Cadman) McMaster. He received the rudiments of his education in the common schools of his township, and after reaching sixteen years of age worked for various farmers for a period of four years, later going to Decorah, Iowa, where he entered Breckenridge Institute and took a two years' course, after which he returned to his home in Canton. For a period of time after completing his college course, Mr. McMaster was employed in the capacity of clerk by James Manuel. Later, returning to the home farm, he worked for his father three years, and then, with Mr. Dunford, entered the lumber business, which they continued for two years. In the spring of 1894 he moved to Lanesboro, where he assumed charge of the Farmers' Co-operative Lumber Yards, and remained in this position until the yards were sold. Some time after this, Mr. McMaster went to farming in Amherst, on section thirty-three, there remaining four years. In 1898 he moved to Canton, but during the winter returned to Lanesboro and took charge of the Vickerman prop-



GEORGE TURNER AND FAMILY

erty. Fraternally, the subject of this sketch is affiliated with Lebanon Lodge, No. 102, A. F. & A. M., of which he is master; the I. O. O. F. and the M. W. A.; and both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. He married Jennie, daughter of Charles and Mary Knox, and they are parents of Mary M. One child, Leone, died in infancy. Mr. McMaster has given good service as a member of the village council of Lanesboro.

**George Turner**, retired farmer, and a citizen of the village of Lanesboro, was born in Lower Canada, November 10, 1843, son of Joseph and Mary Ann (Franklin) Turner. In 1853, with his parents, the subject of this sketch moved to Illinois, where they remained but a short time, after which they went to Wisconsin, going next to Iowa, and from there, in 1857, to Amherst township. During the first few years of their residence here, they endured many hardships and privations, but eventually overcame great difficulties and, as the years passed, grew prosperous. At the time of the Indian troubles, George, the son, enlisted in Company A, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and joined Sully's expedition against the Sioux. During the many encounters with this tribe they experienced great trials, dangers and sufferings. They were stationed at Fort Ridgely during the winter months, and there suffered greatly from cold and exposure. In the warmer months they guarded the frontier. During February, 1866, the regiment started for Fort Snelling, and en route were caught in a terrible blizzard, many losing their lives in the snow. With the few survivors, Mr. Turner managed to make his way back to headquarters, and in April, 1866, he was honorably discharged. Returning to his farm in Amherst township, he resumed agricultural activities, in which he continued until 1895, during which year he decided to retire and move to Lanesboro. Mr. Turner is a strong advocate of temperance, and an active church worker, having been elder of the Presbyterian church for thirty years. For thirty-seven consecutive years he has served as delegate to the county Republican convention. For some time he was a member of the board of supervisors of Amherst township, and a member of the school board for a considerable period. He is also a popular member of Hardy Post, G. A. R., of Lanesboro. Mr. Turner was married June 14, 1868, to Helen A. Weed, born in Milton, Ulster county, N. Y., daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Ann (Smith) Weed. To Mr. and Mrs. Turner have been born four children: Frederick Leonard, Charles I., George A., and Joseph V. Frederick Leonard died at the age of two and a half years. Charles I., a banker of Heaton, N. D., married Lillian Clark and has two children: Howard I. and Bernice. George A. is manager of the Cameron Transfer Company at Minneapolis.

He married Jennie Kimber and has three children: Max R., Ruth J. and Helen C. Joseph V. married Lydia Anderson and they have three children: Ralph J., Mary E. and Margaret A.

Tom Thompson, deceased, was born in Hadeland, Norway, November 27, 1850, came to the United States in 1869, and located on Highland Prairie, Holt township, this county, where he found work as a carpenter for three or four years. He later went to Lanesboro, working on the railroad and at his trade. He was employed by the John Paul Lumber Company as yardman and later as manager, in which position he continued till he and Ole Habberstad entered into partnership. For many years this partnership continued, the firm being engaged in the lumber and hardware business. Mr. Thompson married Hannah, daughter of Ole and Ingeborg Margaretha Ronsen (Benson) Habberstad, March 21, 1873, and to them were born three children: Minnie married Herman DeVillers; she died March 17, 1904, leaving one child, Lilian. Olaf T. married Louise Johnson; Teman married Hannah Johnson. The two sons are now conducting an extensive furniture business in Lanesboro. In 1906 Mr. Thompson retired from business, selling his interests. He died August 10 of the same year. He was a staunch member of the Lutheran church and voted with the Republican party. He served with credit as mayor of Lanesboro, was a member of the village council for some time, and was president of the school board twenty-five years, giving the best of his time and energy that the cause of education might be advanced.

Julius Olson, one of the leading merchants in Lanesboro, was born August 9, 1867, son of Ebenhart and Kjestena Olson, the former of whom, after coming to the United States, was joined by his wife, who came in 1872, bringing their son Julius, the family home being in Lanesboro, where the father opened a shoemaker's shop, which he conducted for many years. Julius attended school in Lanesboro village when a boy and upon completing his education secured a position in Jacob Wahl's store, where for six years he served as clerk and laid the foundation for his future success. Leaving Mr. Wahl's employ, the subject of this sketch went to Minneapolis, there accepting a position with Slaven & Broderick, commission merchants, with whom he remained for some time. Later returning to Lanesboro, Mr. Olson worked for Nelson Brothers, in whose employ he remained for twenty years, giving excellent satisfaction. He is now a member of the Langlie-Olson-Fladager Company, Incorporated. This company conducts the largest general store in the county, carrying an extensive line of dry goods, boots and shoes, groceries,

and clothing. The direct business methods of the firm, the unfailing courtesy shown to all, and the high grade of goods carried, have won for the members of the firm and for the store a high place in the confidence of the community. Mr. Olson was married August 7, 1895, to Anna Gravaas, who has borne him six children: Ellen C., Arthur I., Agnes G., Stella D., Gerald O. and Walter H. He is a member of the Lutheran church of Lanesboro, and has served his village as a member of the council.

**Ole Hellickson.** One by one the old people, our pioneers, are passing away, going over to the Great Beyond. This year the people of the county have been called upon to part with several of the first ones to make beloved Fillmore county what it is today. Among the last was that dear friend and neighbor, Mrs. Ole Hellickson, whose husband preceded her to the grave but a few months. Ole Hellickson was born December 13, 1811, at Tin, Tellemarken, Norway, so near to the famous Rukan Falls that a pebble could have been thrown from the cottage door into the torrent. Here he lived and here he grew to manhood, wooing and marrying Birgit Gusta in 1837. Long before Horace Greeley uttered his famous words—"Go west, young man"—Ole Hellickson took his young wife and infant son Hellick and started for America. After a long and tedious journey, lasting several months, they reached Milwaukee, Wis., then a mere trading post consisting of one log house and a few shanties. This was in 1839. Ole Hellickson was a truly brave man and his wife a constant helper. In the fall of 1842 she was called Home, leaving little Hellick and his baby sister and devoted husband to mourn their loss. The little baby soon followed its mother to their long but, all may trust, a happy home.

Engeber Luroas was born in Tin, Tellmarken, Norway, in the year 1817, and about the year 1840 was married to Halvor G. Söum. Like many others who were ambitious to better their condition, they started in 1842 for America, bringing with them their little boy. The vessel was ill-fated, for thirteen of those on board died and were buried at sea. Among the thirteen were Halvor Söum, and two children, one of whom was born on board ship. Thus alone, a stranger in a strange land, Engeber Söum came to Milwaukee, Wis., in the fall of 1842, after a voyage of eighteen weeks, fraught with perils and death. Milwaukee was thriving. It then contained three log houses and a goodly number of shanties. Neighbors were few and all were very poor. Times were oppressive and the conventions of society, such as we know today, were oft times set aside. This was the case with Ole Hellickson and Engeber Söum, for after only a few weeks of mourning they were married, in the fall of 1842. Their home



was a kindly shelter for many a stranger needing the assistance of friends. In the year 1849, when the cholera raged so mercilessly through our fair land, the home of Ole and Engeber Hellickson was a veritable refuge in a death-stricken land, offering shelter to the sick and dying and showing the last respects to the dead. Their hands smoothed the pathway to many dying ones in that terrible scourge, for of all the inhabitants who suffered from that fatal disease only two survived in the Milwaukee settlement, Mrs. Mathew Hellickson and one other. "A friend in need is a friend indeed," and such this worthy couple proved themselves to be. But the spirit of unrest again came upon these good people, and again they took their march toward the setting sun. May 27, 1854, they started with their six children, in company with Mathew Hellickson (his wife and three children), Ole Halling (his wife and three children), Peter Olson (wife and three children); also the mother of Mrs. Mathew Hellickson and Mrs. Ole Halling, and another aged lady, whose name the writer was unable to obtain. There were no railroads west of Chicago at that time and the journey must be made with oxen as the propelling power. Slowly but surely they came, and on June 24, 1854, they arrived in Spring Valley, Minn. Although now a beautiful village of over 2,000 inhabitants, on June 24, 1854, it boasted of one lonely log cabin occupied by a Mr. Huntley. July 16, 1854, these sturdy men from the Northland drew their prairie schooners upon the farms given them by the government. Again they took up the burdens, dangers and hardships, of early pioneers. Here they lived, provided as very best they could for their families, grew old, far beyond the allotted time of man, and died loved, honored and renowned for those sterling qualities which made them what God intended: "Honest men, the noblest work of God." These men saw the rolling prairies of Fillmore county turn black with the march of civilization, then green again with grains and grasses, making Fillmore county one of the richest in the state. Ole Hellickson had said one day while choosing his farm, in company with his companions: "Boys, there will be a railroad through here some day." They all lived to see one twelve miles to the south, another five miles to the north, and Ole Hellickson's farm divided by one. Ole Hellickson was the last of a large family of children. He had two wives, thirteen children (six of whom still survive him), twenty-eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. Mathew Hellickson died November 28, 1897; Ole Hellickson died April 16, 1902; Ole Halling died April 21, 1902; Engeber Hellickson died September 12, 1902.

The surviving children of Ole Hellickson are: Elsie, Julia, Anna, H. C., A. H. and Thomas. Elsie is now Mrs. Knute John-

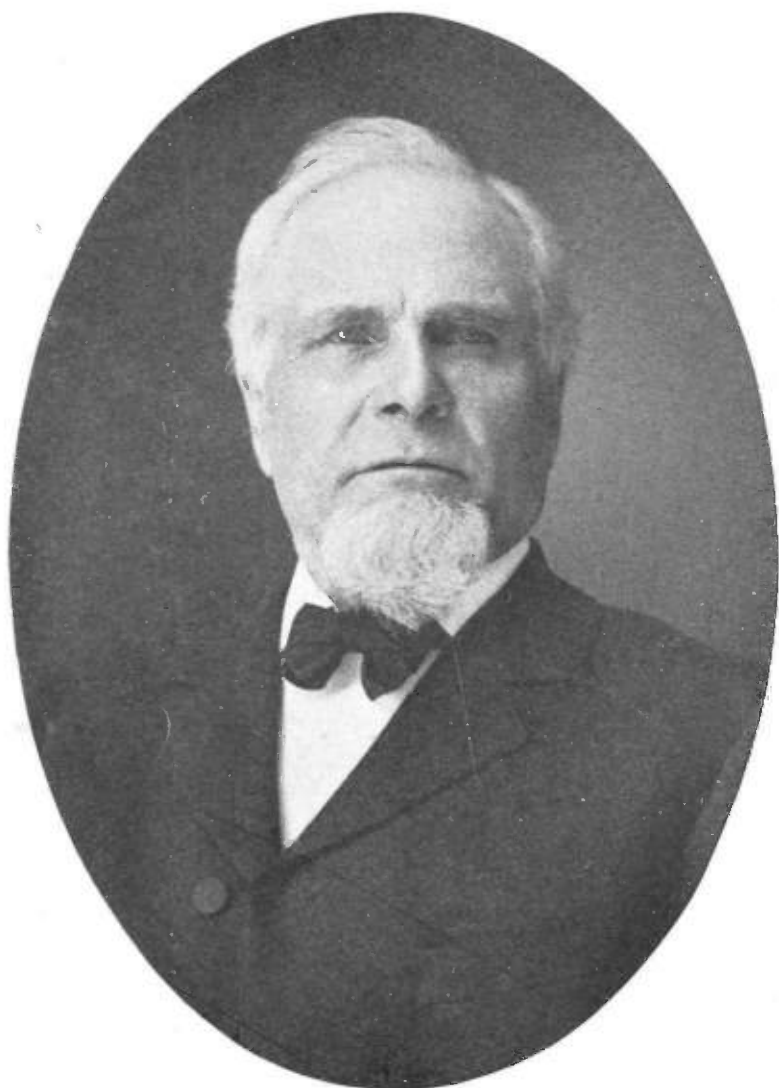
son; Julia is now Mrs. A. E. Aarnes; Anna married Hans Halla, now deceased; H. C., A. H. and Elsie now reside on the home farm. The name of Ole Hellickson, like that of his brother, Matthew W., will ever be held steadfast in the history of Fillmore county. He was always ready to assist in everything which was for the betterment and advancement of town and county, and was interested in every movement which had for its object the advantage or prosperity of his fellow citizens. His good deeds are written on the hearts of his associates, and his memory will ever be cherished not only by his own descendants but also by the descendants of his friends. His death was sincerely mourned and left a heartfelt vacancy in the community. Too much praise cannot be given such men as Mr. Hellickson. Through discouragements and untoward circumstances he was even tempered and ever cheerful. It is pleasing to record that he lived to see his hopes realized, and after years of toil he was rewarded with comfort and prosperity in full measure.

**William T. Hart**, one of the prominent citizens of Newburg, was born in Fayette county, Iowa, in 1857, son of Harvey and Mary (Bates) Hart. In 1865 he was taken by his parents to Lansing, Iowa, and there obtained his early schooling. He was variously engaged until 1880, when he came to Harmony, and for four years spent his time as a grain buyer. Then he moved to Mabel, and lived there until 1908, when he moved to his farm in section twenty-seven, Newburg, where he still resides. He has a fine home, with spacious outbuildings, surrounded by a well cultivated farm of 120 acres. He married Harriet, the daughter of D. B. and Rhoda (Gates) Taylor, and they have three children: Grant T., Bernie and William. Mr. Hart is an excellent type of the modern farmer. Well informed and well read, he has kept well abreast of the trend of modern thought, and is a thorough believer in the future of the rural districts of Minnesota. The subject of this sketch comes of a pioneer race. His father, Harvey Hart, accompanied his parents from Utica, Oneida county, N. Y., to Boone county, Iowa, in 1838. In 1855 Harvey moved to West Union, Iowa, and in 1865 to Lansing, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his days, passing away in 1882.

**M. J. Stevens** is now residing on section sixteen, township of Fountain, where he first saw the light of day, June 17, 1871, son of Edward and Bridget (Barrett) Stevens, natives of County Mayo, Ireland. The former was born in 1831 and came to the United States with his parents in 1847, locating first in Onondaga county, New York, and later, in 1853, moving to Joe Daviess county, Illinois. The following year, Edward, the son, came to

Minnesota and settled in Fountain, and at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted in the regular army, Fourth Regiment, United States Heavy Artillery. This regiment was first sent west to the frontier, and later, in April, was ordered to Washington, and passed through Baltimore the day before the riot there. Mr. Stevens served out his enlistment and was discharged March 29, 1864, at Stephenson, Ala. An interesting item is that the commander of this regiment, Major Pemberton, resigned his position, as his sympathies were with the South, and later became a major-general in the Confederate Army. After Mr. Stevens was discharged from his duties in the army, he was appointed by the government to take charge of a horse corral in Nashville, Tenn., which furnished horses for the army, and in this work he remained until the close of the war, after which he returned to Minnesota and bought a farm in Fountain township, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1899, then moving into Fountain village, where he resides at present. M. J., his son, attended school when a boy in district seventy-six, and grew to manhood on the home farm. He married Laura Pfremmer, a native of this county, and their children are Joseph M., William J. and Frances L. The home farm, which Mr. Stevens operates, comprises 200 acres of well cultivated soil. He makes a specialty of raising Duroc-Jersey hogs, and carries on general farming. His dwelling house is large and comfortable and the outbuildings are well cared for and convenient, an evidence of the industry of their owner.

Martin Oswald was born at Stavanger, Norway, July 8, 1861, son of Rasmus and Annie Oswald. In 1879 he left his home in Norway and crossed the ocean to seek his fortune in the United States. Landing at Boston, he soon after started west and settled first in Story county, Iowa, where he worked for a year, then going to Winneshiek county, where he was employed for a similar length of time. At the end of that time he came to Minnesota. After working out and saving his hard earned cash for several years, he bought 160 acres in section twenty-nine, York township, where he has made many improvements, now carrying on general farming and dairying. He prefers Shorthorn cattle for dairy purposes and sells cream to the Chester Creamery, being a stockholder in that organization. He also raises many Chester-White hogs, for which he realizes the best of market prices. Mr. Oswald supports the Prohibitionist party's principles, and has served his community as road overseer. He is secretary of the Bethlehem Lutheran church and he has been a deacon for ten years. He married Mary Ammunson November 7, 1889, and to them have been born five children: Anna is in Dakota; Olga is



ANDREW O. WANG

at Lime Springs; Lena is the wife of Lawrence Jacobson, of Jewel, Iowa; Mamie and Clara are at home. Mrs. Oswald's parents, Amund and Mary Amundson, were natives of Norway and spent their lives in that country.

**Ole Applen**, well known resident of York township, was born in Bristol, Minn., June 20, 1866, son of Easton Applen, who came to this county in 1862, and ended his days on his farm in section twenty-six, York township. Ole was educated in the common schools and after completing his studies learned the blacksmith's trade, working for about six years in Lime Springs, Iowa. He then went to LeRoy, where he was employed at his trade for one year, after which he returned to York and opened a shop which he continues to operate. In 1901 he purchased eighty acres of land, to which he has added as prosperity has afforded until he now has 160 acres. He rents a greater portion of his land and devotes most of his time to following his trade, driving each day from his home on the farm to the shop. Mr. Applen adheres to the Republican party, but has progressive views. He has been town treasurer for two years and he is also treasurer of the school board. On May 1, 1893, he married Emma Torgerson, and they are the parents of nine children: Arthur, Alice, Cora, Edith, Winnie, Olive, Irving Theodore, Lily Pearl and Goldie May, who are all at home. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Applen is a liberal contributor to the support of this organization.

**Andrew O. Wang**, retired farmer and one of Fillmore county's substantial and representative citizens, living in Carrolton township, was born at Hadeland, Norway, September 27, 1835, there received his education and there lived until eighteen years of age. In 1853, together with his mother and brother Ole, he came to America and settled in Wyota county, Wisconsin, where he secured employment in a harness shop for a short time. Later he went to work for farmers in that vicinity, and still later hired out to a farmer in Iowa county for but \$8.00 per month. His frugal habits and desire to get a start in life enabled him to save from his small earnings, and in June, 1857, he came to Minnesota and located in Hartland township, Freeborn county, where he took a claim and helped to organize the township. He broke seven acres of land on his claim, built a log house, made up 1,000 rails and sufficient posts, and fenced twenty acres. The following spring he broke five acres more and seeded the twelve acres which he broke, but owing to the heavy rains and a non-productive crop he reaped no benefits. In July, 1858, he came to Fillmore county and secured employment at Richland Prairie,

Amherst township, where he worked for a farmer until fall, thus earning money enough to pay up the debts which he had accrued while on his claim in Freeborn county. He then went to Wisconsin and remained one winter. Returning to his claim in Freeborn county the following spring, he discovered that his log house had been moved and that his claim had been jumped by another party. He then returned to Fillmore county and took a railroad claim in section thirty-one, Holt township, where he engaged in general farming. In 1864 he was drafted for the Civil War, but, feeling that he could render better service by staying at home with his wife and looking after the affairs of his farm, he hired a substitute. This proved another financial misfortune in Mr. Wang's life, as he paid \$950.00 to the substitute before the matter was settled. Mr. Wang remained on his farm in Holt township until 1866. During that year he purchased land in section twenty-five, Carrolton township, making it suitable for occupation while living on another farm. In 1868 he moved to his land on which he had erected a substantial log house. In 1884 the log house was replaced by a fine frame dwelling in which he lives at the present time. Mr. Wang was married July 22, 1862, to Martha Trulson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Trulson. She proved a most worthy and devoted helpmate, and died April 28, 1904. As Mr. and Mrs. Wang were never blessed with any children of their own, they adopted a small girl, Lovise, and reared her to womanhood. She married Fred Larson, and they are the parents of five children: Gordon, Myrtle, Clarence, Frances and Delia. At the time of her marriage Mr. Wang presented her with the farm, continuing, however, to make his home with her and her family. During the active years Mr. Wang occupied several offices of trust and honor in his township. He is a member of the Lutheran church at Lanesboro and contributes liberally to its support.

Henry Applen, a prosperous farmer of York township, was born in this township June 20, 1868, son of Easton and Agnes Applen. When a boy he attended the district school and assisted his father with the farm work, remaining at home until he became nineteen years of age. Then he started for himself and was employed by various farmers in the locality. He eventually bought the old homestead, which he operated for one year, and then sold, after which he went to Howard county, Iowa, where, in company with others, he purchased a half section of land. He lived there for seven years, then returned to Minnesota and bought the farm of 380 acres which he occupies at the present time. Together with conducting general farming, Mr. Applen keeps about forty cows for dairy purposes and disposes of cream to the Chester Creamery. He also raises good horses for general

farm work, and Chester-White hogs. Politically, he affiliates with the Republican party, though he has not sought public office. Mr. Applen married Hattie Hovey in December, 1895, and they have seven children: Easton, Josie, Agnes, Clara, Hazel, Gladys and Geneva, who are all at home. The family attends the Lutheran church.

**H. O. Laastuen**, one of the early settlers of Fillmore county, was born in Naas, Hallingdahl, Norway, February 27, 1836, son of Ole K. Laastuen. He brought his wife and daughter Sarah to America in 1860, and worked in Amherst township, this county, for a period of four years, after which he came to Carrolton township and purchased a farm in section thirty-five. He married Margit Knudsen, and to them seven children have been born: Bergit (deceased), Sarah, Olava, Betsy, Carl, Nettie and Anton. Sarah is now Mrs. Nels Storelee; Olava is now Mrs. E. Johnson; Betsy is the widow of John Olstad; Carl married Gea Olstad; Caroline married Andrew G. Austin, and died in 1909; Nettie is now Mrs. Andrew Holman. Mr. Laastuen has twenty-seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Andrew G. Austin**, respected citizen of Carrolton, was born in the township where he still resides, September 11, 1864, son of Gunder and Martha Austin. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and went to the district school. Later he bought a farm in section thirty-five, Carrolton township, and to this has added from time to time, now owning 238 acres, nearly all under cultivation, on which he raises general crops and blooded stock.

**Jule Skarie**, deceased, was born in Hadeland, Norway, February 16, 1831, and in that country was educated and reared. In 1848 he came to America and located in Racine, Wis., where he learned the carpenter's trade. Later he went to Chicago and was employed in a sash and blind factory, after which he located in Milwaukee. Deciding there were better opportunities for him further west, he moved to Decorah, Iowa, and there assisted in erecting the first frame building in the town, and furnished its sash and blinds. In 1855, with Captain Grinager, he set out on foot for Winnebago county, there hoping to locate a desirable claim. In this venture he was disappointed, so he returned to Decorah and there bought a lot and erected a store, which he rented. In 1856 Mr. Skarie came to Fillmore county and the following year located on section one, Carroltown township, there building a log house, which was later replaced by a frame dwelling. In 1886 he removed to section twenty-two, and there erected a substantial brick residence, in which he made his

home until 1892, during which year he moved to Lanesboro. Mr. Skarie was married in Decorah to Sille Linnevold, and their children are Henry, a widower residing at Hetting, N. D.; Julia, the wife of S. A. Nelson, deceased; Carl E., Oscar A. and William M., farmers, residing in Carrolton. On December 20, 1903, Mr. Skarie passed away, and his widow resides with her son Oscar in Carrolton township. Carl E. bought the old homestead in the spring of 1901 and is now engaged in general farming there.

Gunder Austin was born in Hougessond, Norway, and was there married. About 1856 he and his good wife Martha came to America. For two years they resided in Illinois, after which they moved to Holt township, Minnesota, and there spent a year with Mrs. Austin's father, J. N. McCarlson, later purchasing a farm of 120 acres in section thirty-five, Carrolton. They lived many years in a log cabin which they found on the place, and here six of their children were born. In 1875 Mr. and Mrs. Austin moved to Newburg township, where they still reside. He has made many improvements and during the year of 1895 erected the dwelling in which he and his family now reside. Mr. Austin affiliates with the Republican party and has been elected to serve as township supervisor and assessor, and as school treasurer. He was married February 10, 1889, to Caroline Laastuen, and they have five children: Mamie, born June 2, 1894; Alpha, January 8, 1896 (died December 20, 1902); Gordon, October 9, 1898; Arthur, May 18, 1901; and Alvin, June 7, 1904. Mr. Austin died February 22, 1909. The family faith is that of the United Lutheran church.

Carl E. Skarie was born August 16, 1860, in Carrolton township, and there spent the years of his boyhood, receiving his education in the school of district fifty-nine and working on the farm. At the age of twenty-one years he went to North Dakota, where he remained twenty years, acquiring in time 480 acres of land. In 1900 he returned to his old home in Carrolton, where he now owns 200 acres of well cultivated land. A Republican in politics, he has been supervisor of his township; a Lutheran in religion, he has been treasurer of the Lone Tree church three years. While in North Dakota he married Christine Hemmingson, a native of Denmark, and they have four children: Julius H., who is farming with his father, married Clara Sorum; Herman C. is in the banking business at Wildrose, N. D., and married Cora Boyd; Robert and an unnamed infant are dead. In the Skarie home is an adopted daughter, Hazel S. Melger. Julia Stromma, who was also reared in their home, married John Norby, and has two children.



Mrs. Minnie C. Fairbanks, a resident of Lanesboro, was born in Prussia, Germany, daughter of Godfrey and Christine (Galtz) Marotz, who brought her to America in 1853, when she was eight years of age, settling in Rock Island county, Illinois. Coming to Canton township, this county, in 1856, and settling in the southeastern part of the town, they engaged in farming, the mother dying in 1858 and the father in 1897. Minnie was married in 1865 to Edward Morrey, and to them was born Benjamin, who now resides in Minneapolis. In 1873 Mrs. Minnie Morrey married Daniel N. Fairbanks, and to them was born one child, Cora, who married Edmund Crippen. They reside in Austin, Minn., and are the parents of three children: Donald, Curtis and Dorothy. Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks lived many years in Amherst, where Mr. Fairbanks carried on farming. In 1890 they moved to Lanesboro, where Mr. Fairbanks engaged in the grain business. He was a man who took an active interest in the affairs of his town and county, serving as a member of the board of county commissioners and holding many offices in Amherst township, always filling the same with credit to himself and with satisfaction to his fellow men. His death, which occurred in 1896, was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mrs. Fairbanks proved a very efficient helpmate in all his undertakings. She now resides in the village of Lanesboro, encircled by a large number of friends and acquaintances.

Harriet E. Fairbanks, widow of John H. Fairbanks, now residing in Lanesboro, was born in Orange county, New York, daughter of William and Rosanna (Brundage) Kimber, also born in that county, the father being a farmer. In 1843 they came west to Janesville, Rock county, Wis., and there made their home for several years. In 1854, when Minnesota was yet a territory, they came to this county and preëmpted a homestead on section eighteen, Amherst township, where he engaged in farming. In 1875, they sold and moved to Burr Oak, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the wife and mother died, July 8, 1891, after which Mr. Kimber made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Fairbanks, in Amherst township. He died in 1904, in Winneshiek county, Iowa. Harriet E. Kimber and John H. Fairbanks were united in marriage in 1860, and took up their home on a farm in Amherst township just west of the Kimber farm, where they lived until 1866, when they moved to another farm in Amherst township, where Mr. Fairbanks followed agricultural pursuits until 1895. That year they removed to Lanesboro village, where Mrs. Fairbanks still resides, Mr. Fairbanks having passed away in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks were the parents of seven children: Sarah J., deceased, wife of Samuel G. Sands; Hattie E., now

Mrs. Clark Prescott; Ada A., now Mrs. Isaac Reed; Alta M., now Mrs. Lewis Isaacs; Hiram H., deceased; Lillie R., deceased; and Walter L. Fairbanks, who is a jeweler, is married and lives in Mora, Minn.

Carl Lawstuen was born on section thirty-five, Carrolton township, April 2, 1870, son of Halvor O. and Margaret (Brenno) Lawstuen. The father was born at Ness, in Hallingdahl, Norway, February 27, 1836, and when twenty-four years of age brought his wife and daughter to America, landing in Quebec and settling in Amherst township, this county, where he worked for various farmers four years. Later they moved to Carrolton, bought a farm, erected a log house and engaged in agriculture. Carl, subject of this biography, was educated in the district school near his home and at the Lanesboro public schools, and remained in his father's employ until he married, except for six months, when he clerked in a store at Lanesboro. Then he purchased 120 acres in section thirty-three, Carrolton township, where he remained seven years. At the expiration of this time Mr. Lawstuen moved to his present home on section ten, Amherst, where he has made many improvements, erecting a comfortable dwelling house and the needed outbuildings. As he has prospered he has added to his original holdings, until he now owns 240 acres of tillable land. He successfully carries on general farming, stock raising and dairying and is recognized as an industrious and progressive citizen. Mr. Lawstuen married Gea, daughter of Jens and Karen Olstad, and they are parents of four children: Mamie C., Henry Clifford, Gladys C. and Selmer O. Mr. and Mrs. Lawstuen have also taken into their family Florence Johnson, who, while not a legally adopted daughter, has a warm place in the affections of the whole family. Mr. Lawstuen has been a member of the town board of supervisors for nine years and is its present chairman. He is one of the directors of the Harmony Insurance Company, of Harmony; secretary of the Lenora & Lanesboro Telephone Company, and president of the Amherst Cross Line.

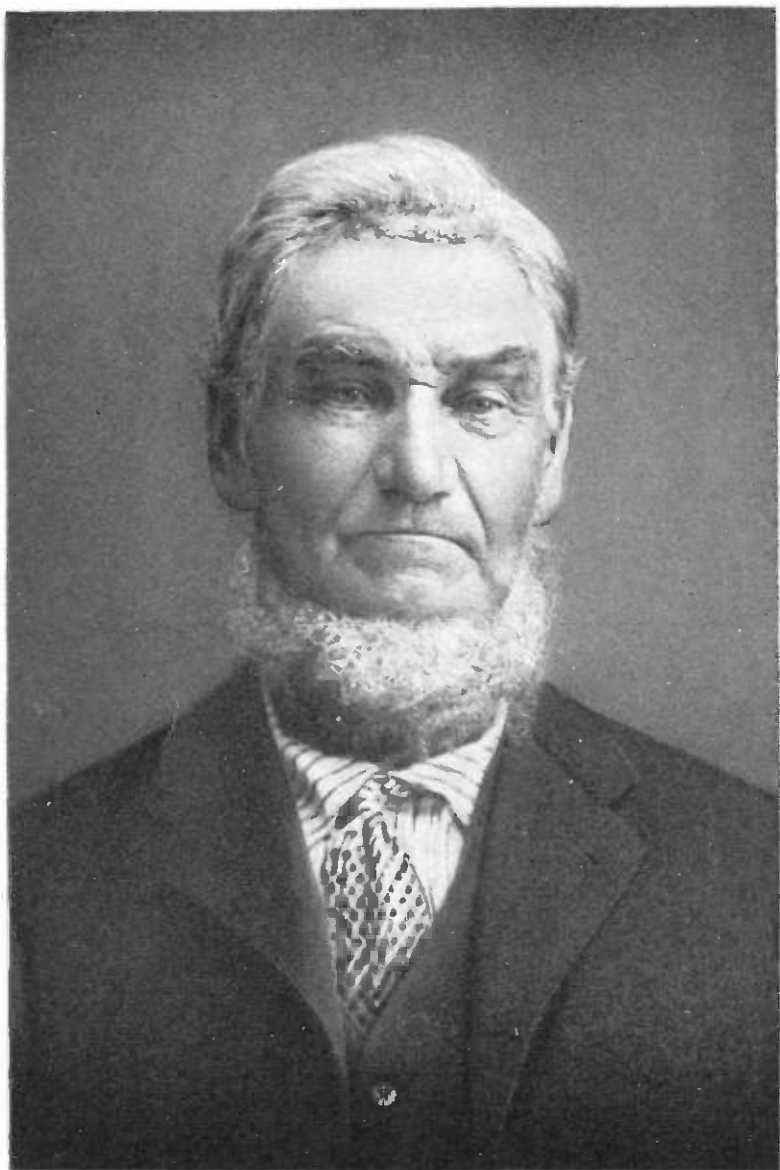
John Ward, deceased, was one of Fillmore county's early settlers, and his name will ever be cherished in its history. He was born in County Carlow, Ireland, January 21, 1837, and there remained until twelve years of age. In 1849 his parents and he came to America and settled in New Jersey for a period of two years. In 1851 they came west to Green County, Wisconsin, and from there, in 1858, John Ward, then a young man of twenty-one years, walked to Amherst, this county, took a claim on section twenty-nine, broke and cultivated the land, erected a

home and necessary outbuildings, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits. By hard work, farsightedness and untiring efforts, he forged ahead and became a substantial and representative citizen. As time passed he added from time to time to his original possessions, until he owned nearly 900 acres of land. Early in his farming career, he entered into stock raising, a business which yielded him large returns. He was a man of strong convictions, just and true in all his dealings, always willing to lend a helping hand in any good cause that might tend toward the bettering of local conditions. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the First Minnesota Light Artillery, being mustered in October 24, 1861. During his career as a soldier he took an active part in twenty-four active engagements and was severely wounded at the battles of Shilo and Vicksburg. After being wounded at Shilo, he was picked up by Dr. Suiter, of Davenport, Iowa, but later of La Crosse, Wis., to whom, after thoroughly recovering from his wounds, Mr. Ward became an assistant. He was honorably discharged on December 17, 1864, and immediately returned to his farm in Amherst. In 1867 he married Mrs. Hannah (Vickerman) Ward, his brother's widow, and to them were born four children: Dora, now Mrs. Edward Ingalls, resides in Idaho Springs, Colo.; Ida is now Mrs. Frank Bergey, of Amherst township; Ada is now Mrs. Joseph Christianson; Arthur is the only son. He grew to manhood in Amherst and there received his schooling. He has followed farming as a business and is one of the substantial men of his community. His farm comprises 542 acres on which he follows general farming and stock raising. He breeds Belgium and Hackney horses and Shetland ponies, all thoroughbred registered strains, and at the present time is breeding into registered Shorthorn cattle. April 16, 1902, he married Blanche Greer, and they moved to Lanesboro, where Mr. Ward owns a comfortable home. Mrs. Blanche Greer Ward died July 10, 1910, leaving one child, Marjorie. Mr. Ward was married the second time June 5, 1912, to Mary McCallum. Mr. Ward's father died January 21, 1891. The mother is living on her home farm in Amherst township.

**Halver Peterson (Pladson)** is one of the oldest men in the county. He was born at Ness, Hallingdahl, Norway, October 1, 1821, there grew to manhood and received his schooling, after which he learned and followed the blacksmith's trade. When thirty years of age he determined to come to America, and in the fall of 1851 he and his wife took passage on one of the sailing vessels, the trip taking nine weeks and three days from port to port. They went directly to Rock county, Wisconsin; where they had friends who preceded them on the American venture,

and there made their home for three years. In May, 1854, they started for Minnesota, making the journey with ox teams and covered wagons, and camping along the way. They reached Fillmore county June 6, 1854, and found land to their liking on school section sixteen, Amherst township. Here a log cabin was erected and in this the home was made and the children born. In 1895 the present brick house was built. When the Civil War opened Mr. Peterson felt that his duty was at home. When the draft was resorted to in Amherst it fell to his lot to furnish a man for the army. He decided to pay another to take his place, that he might stay with his family. Though of such an unusual age, Mr. Peterson has an excellent memory for the past events of the early days when Winona was the nearest wheat market, and oxen the most rapid method of transportation. In November, 1851, he married Barbara Torstenson (Saterdahlen), and they fought the battle of life together. Their union was blessed with ten children: Peter and Betsy died in infancy; Peter, Betsy, Thorwald and Alfred are all residents of South Dakota, where Alfred owns a large farm; Lewis lives in Amherst township and is the father of seven children; Emelia married John Peterson and they have seven children; Hannah married Knudt Peterson, they live on the old home farm, and are the parents of four children; Julius is deceased. The wife of the subject of this sketch died September 5, 1903.

J. M. Johnson, who has held the office of school clerk in district fifty-three, Carrolton township, for a period of twenty-five years, has also given excellent satisfaction in other public offices, chief of which is that of supervisor. Mr. Johnson was born in Christiania, Norway, January 18, 1846, son of Jens and Malina Johnson, with whom he came to America in 1854. Landing at Quebec, they proceeded to the States and located first at Decorah, Iowa, where the father farmed for seven years. In 1861 the family moved to Carrolton and settled on section twenty-two, where the father passed away in 1887 and the mother in 1893. J. M., the son, was given a common school education and grew to manhood on his father's farm, where he prepared the foundation for his later success as a farmer. After the death of his parents, Mr. Johnson became owner of the old homestead, which comprises 240 acres, and in addition to this property he also owns sixty-five acres in section twenty-four. The log house, in which his parents lived for many years, was later covered with boards, which have given it a modern appearance. In connection with cultivating the soil and planting and harvesting crops, Mr. Johnson engages in stock raising and dairying. He married Bertha, daughter of Ingebret and Gorgina Nelson, natives of Norway and



ANDREW SORENSON

early settlers in Holt township. To this marriage five children have been born: William and Elton, living in North Dakota; Gorda, Casper and Mabel, at home.

**Andrew Sorensen**, deceased, was one of the prominent citizens of Pilot Mound township. During his residence there, he served with ability in some of the most responsible public offices, among which were supervisor of the township for many years, also treasurer of the school board and postmaster. Mr. Sorensen was born in Norway, October 4, 1833, son of Soren and Ingeborg Sorensen, who passed their lives in their native country. He came to America in 1853 and located first at Whitewater, Wis., where he was employed at his trade of shoemaking. In 1864 he came to Fillmore county and bought a farm on section six, Pilot Mound, where he followed agriculture for the remainder of his life. He was married at Whitewater, Wis., Feb. 22, 1856 to Ingeborg Haugen, daughter of Torger and Signa (Storaaslie) Haugen. To Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen were born seven children: Theodore, Adolph, Julius, Albert, Ida, Josephine and Clara. Ida married Henry Boyer; Josephine is the wife of Kleber Molstad; Clara is now Mrs. William Hart; Albert works the home farm for his mother. Mr. Sorensen entered into rest August 10, 1911, and his death removed from the community one of its most highly esteemed citizens.

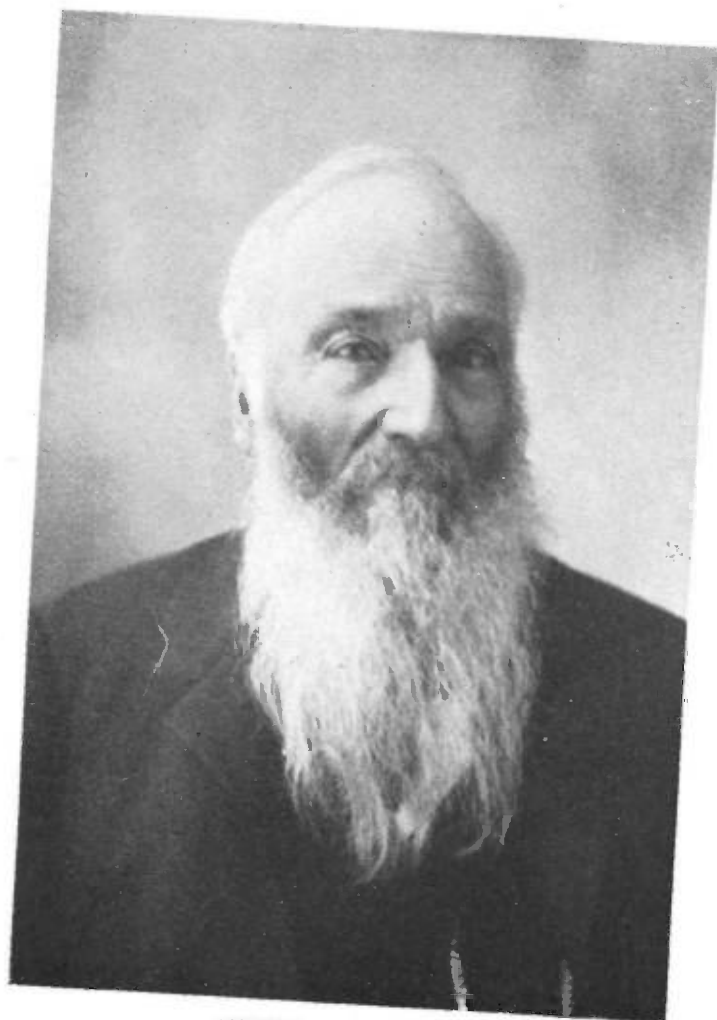
**Adolph Sorensen**, son of Andrew and Ingeborg (Haugen) Sorensen, was born at Whitewater, Wis., in 1861. He attended the common schools when a boy and there acquired his education. Until thirty years of age, he remained in his father's employ, and during the year 1891, rented a farm, which adjoined the old homestead in Pilot Mound township, this county. For fourteen years, Mr. Sorensen operated this farm, after which he moved to McIntyre, Iowa, where he went into the hardware and farm implement business. He owned this business for two years and then disposed of it and returned to his old home in this county, where he remained at home for a summer. The following year he went to Ward county, North Dakota and homesteaded a claim of 160 acres, which he still owns. On this claim he spent two years, after which he again returned to Pilot Mound. In 1893 he bought forty acres of land on section six and to this added eighty acres in 1902 and forty acres in 1904, making a total of 160. Mr. Sorensen does general farming and raises pure bred Hereford cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs, graded farm horses and Buff Plymouth Rock poultry. He is a member of the United Lutheran church and in politics, a Republican. He has served as supervisor of the township, two terms; constable,

one term; and clerk of the school board for six years. He married Mary Spelhaug, May 5, 1891, and to them two children have been born: Lawrence A. and Selma. Mrs. Mary (Spelhaug) Sorensen is a daughter of Anders and Serina (Haugen) Spelhaug.

**Julius Sorensen** was born in Pilot Mound township in 1866, son of Andrew and Ingeborg (Haugen) Sorenson. When a boy, he attended the district school near the home farm and also assisted his father. After completing his education, he worked for a period with his parents and then started for himself. He bought his present property, which consists of 240 acres on sections five, six and eight, and has since carried on general farming, together with stockraising and dairying. He raises Short-horn cattle and owns a pure bred sire, "Nailstone Historic," which was imported from England. He keeps fifteen horses for the carrying on of his farm work. Mr. Sorensen is affiliated with the Republican party and has served as assessor for the township and clerk of the school board, holding the latter office four terms. He was once elected to the office of pathmaster but did not care to serve. Among various business interests, he owns stock in the Farmers' Elevator at St. Charles. June 12, 1899, Mrs. Louisa M. (Heim) Becker became his wife and to them Josephine C., Caroline Henrietta, Evangeline Odellia and Theodore Anthony have been born. Mrs. Louisa Sorensen is a daughter of Anthony and Crescentia (Hafuer) Heim. By her first marriage to Sylvester Becker she had three children: Sylvester W., Louisa M. and Mary M., all of whom are educated in the Catholic faith with their mother.

**Joseph B. Thayer** and his wife came to Spring Valley in 1854 from Conneaut, Penn. They remained a year, during which time their daughter, Mary Belle, was born, the first white child born in Spring Valley. Then they went east and stayed seven years. Four children were born there: Joseph W. Thayer, now of Chicago; Elsie C. Thrall and Mary E. Cummings, of Spring Valley, and Kezia Nutting, now of Denver. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer returned to Minnesota in 1863, and spent the remainder of their lives, Mr. Thayer's death occurring in 1888 and Mrs. Thayer's in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer organized the First Congregational church of Spring Valley and were among its staunch supporters.

**I. N. Cummings** came to Minnesota in 1854, returned east that year, and in company with others came back to Spring Valley in 1855. The same year he "opened" a store in a "rail-pen," but in the fall built a store on the lot where the Commercial



ANDREW SHATTUCK



House now stands. He was a member of the First Village council of Spring Valley, organized in 1872. In 1868 he built Hard-scrabble mill, at the cost of \$9,000, a large expenditure at that time. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cummings: Mary K. and Newton F. The latter is now the oldest living person born in Spring Valley. Mr. Cummings died July, 1900.

**Ole L. Vignes** was born in Stavanger, Norway, July 16, 1833, son of Lars and Chestie (Olson) Vignes. He received his education in Norway, came to America in 1856, settled in Norway township, this county, and purchased 144½ acres of wild land at \$2.50 an acre. He worked this farm until 1908 when he sold it for \$75 an acre, and moved to Highland Village, where he now lives in retirement. For some time he was a member of the school board of his district, and he has been trustee and treasurer of the Highland United Lutheran church. Mr. Vignes married for his first wife, Annie Hallum, and of the five children born to this union, four are living, Lauress, Edward, Ludwig and Emma. By his present wife, Rachael Solland, Mr. Vignes has one son, Elmer Arthur of Holt township.

**Norman Alonzo Graves** was born in Oneida county, New York, May 15, 1819, moved with his parents to Genessee county, New York in 1822 and from there to Loraine county, Ohio, in 1833. As a young man he settled in Michigan, and in 1843, located in Wisconsin. Then he went back to Ohio, where he was married December 31, 1857, to Mary Ann Johnson. He came to this state in October, 1856, selected a location, and then returned to Ohio. On November 7, 1856, he and his wife and their son, Lewis, reached Highland, this county, and established their permanent home here. He died in December, 1902. A man of ability and sterling common sense, he was chosen to serve his neighbors as postmaster and justice of the peace. He was also chosen county commissioner. In every way a model citizen, he held the respect and esteem of all his neighbors and acquaintances and left a large circle of friends to mourn his death.

**Andrew Shattuck** (deceased) one of the pioneers of Fillmore county, was born at Grafton, New Hampshire, on July 4, 1823, eldest of the four children of Nathaniel and Sarah (Briggs) Shattuck, of New Hampshire birth and parentage; worthy people, farmers by occupation, but pioneers by heredity. In 1830 they moved to Vermont, where they resided for ten years, after which they went to St. Lawrence county, New York, remaining there for a similar period of time and thence going to a farm near Oberlin, Ohio, which is still owned by a member of the family,

there spending the remainder of their lives. They are buried in the Royalton cemetery. Andrew, the subject of this biography, acquired his education in the district schools of Vermont and New York. In 1850 he moved with his parents to Ohio and soon after purchased a farm near the parental home. In 1859 he came to Minnesota and during that year drove with an ox team from Brownsville to Holt township, this county. For a short period after his arrival in this county, he lived with his brother-in-law, Norman A. Graves, who had settled here three years previous. Mr. Shattuck bought a farm of 240 acres in section 35, Holt township, and erected a log cabin, in which he and his family made their home for many years. It was upon this farm that the village of Highland was afterward located. Mr. Shattuck was a Republican and an earnest worker for the political welfare of the community in which he lived. From the year of 1862 until 1869 he served the hamlet of Highland in the capacity of postmaster. He also held other public offices, among which were treasurer and supervisor of the township. On June 28, 1853, Mr. Shattuck married Julia A. Graves, born February 16, 1829, in Genessee county, New York, daughter of Starling and Rosetta (Mathews) Graves, the former born September 9, 1779, and the latter April 23, 1789, natives of New England and pioneers of Cuyahoga, Loraine county, Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Shattuck a family of eight children were born: Julia E., the eldest, was born in 1855, married William Mitchell and died in 1896. George W., now resides in Amherst township, this county. Andrew J. died in March, 1909. Frederick W. lives at Altura, Minnesota. Rose E. makes her home with Bert N., who lives in the old homestead in Holt township. Alice C. resides in Boulder, Colorado. She is now Mrs. C. I. Terwilliger. Abbie M., now Mrs. M. L. Haines, is also a resident of Boulder, Colorado. The wife and mother entered into rest on August 25, 1877. She was a loyal member of the Methodist church. Mr. Shattuck died May 27, 1908. He attended the Friends' church during his active life and was an esteemed member of that organization.

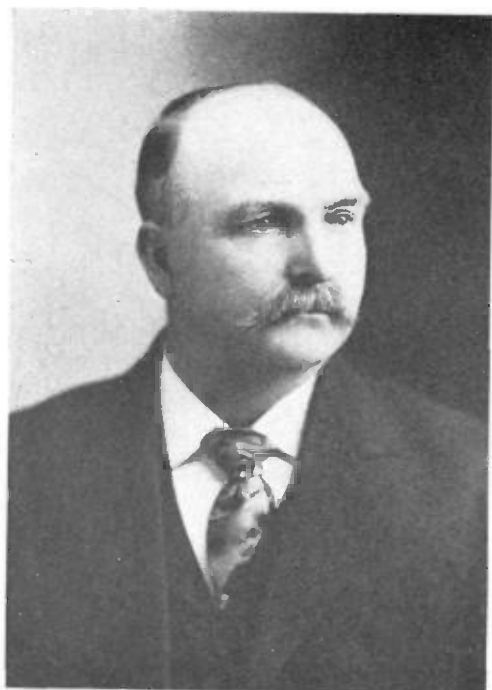
George W. Shattuck was born in Loraine county, Ohio, November 11, 1857, son of Andrew and Julia (Graves) Shattuck. He was educated in the district schools of Holt township and attended Rushford school for one term. After completing his studies, Mr. Shattuck worked a part of his time on the home farm until 1893. Prior to this year, in 1878, he formed a partnership with his brother, Andrew. Soon after Bert N. purchased Andrew's interest and George W. and Bert N. began the manufacture of Amber Cane Syrup, erected a sugar mill and for several years carried on a thriving business at Highland. At times

they obtained granulated sugar, but never in any large quantity. In 1887 George W. Shattuck and his brother, Bert N., purchased a steam well drilling outfit, which after intelligent study of the geological formation of the surrounding country, they operated most successfully. In 1896 Mr. Shattuck bought his brother's interest and conducted the business on his own responsibility for two years, after which he disposed of it. In 1893 he bought 95 acres of good farm land, 54 acres of which are in section 35, Holt township and the remainder in section 2, Amherst township. At this time he also purchased 9 acres of timber in Preble township. After moving to his farm, Mr. Shattuck began making improvements and after disposing of his well drilling business, devoted his entire attention to scientific farming and dairying. Politically, he adheres to the principles endorsed by the Prohibitionists and his religious views are identical with those of his father, he being a Friend. On December 29, 1891, Mr. Shattuck married Rachel Rose, born in Amherst on June 19, 1861, daughter of Jacob A. and Christina (Kent) Rose. Mrs. Shattuck died on May 15, 1902, and on September 16, 1903, Mr. Shattuck was united in marriage with Nellie E. Johnson, who was born near Rushford, November 13, 1881, daughter of Charles E. and Henrietta (Edmonds) Johnson, natives of New York. She was educated at the Rushford high school from which she graduated in 1898 and for five years taught in the district schools. Mr. and Mrs. Shattuck have two children: Frances E., born February 11, 1906, and Glen W., born June 29, 1909. Mrs. Shattuck is a member of the Episcopal church of Rushford.

**Torger Elstad**, merchant and prominent citizen of Highland village, was born on the old Elstad homestead in Amherst township, August 16, 1876, son of Ingebret and Mathea (Lunde) Elstad, the pioneers. The subject of this sketch received his early education in the common schools, and later attended the Toland Business University of La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he took a commercial course. He remained with his mother for many years. April 1, 1911, he bought stock in the store at Highland village, which store he now operates, and which enjoys a large patronage among the people whose confidence he has won by his integrity and honesty. In politics he is a Republican, and is now serving as justice of the peace. He is a strong advocate of total abstinence, and is always ready to work for what he believes to be the best interests of the community. He has been an active worker in the Elstad Norwegian Lutheran church, and is now a trustee of that body. Mr. Elstad was married May 28, 1912, to Ellen L. P. Stenshoel, born in Canton township, January 28, 1880, daughter of Lewis and Martina (Jacobson) Stenshoel.

**John A. Langord**, merchant of Highland village, was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, October 30, 1857, son of Andrew and Eli Langord, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1851, settled in Columbia county, and there lived until 1860, when they removed to Adams county, Wisconsin, where the father still lives, he being a shoemaker by trade. The mother died in 1906. John A. received his education in the common schools, and in 1877 left home and started working as a farm hand. In the spring of 1882 he opened a store in Highland village in partnership with A. Christiansen. Later he had several partners, among them being K. M. Borgen and R. N. Numemaker. He now owns the store alone, carries a good stock, and enjoys a large trade. He was married July 15, 1885, to Mary Hendrickson, born in Holt township, April 9, 1865, and this union has been blessed with seven children, Ella Serena, Arthur Phillip, Josie May, Pearl Agetha, Leonard Roger and Grace Juanita.

**Rev. Ellef Loveland**, deceased, was born in Norway, December 26, 1842. He was educated at the Christiansand Stift Seminary, from which he graduated in 1861, after which he became a teacher in the same institution for a period of about seven years. In 1866 he was united in marriage to Thaaraand Asland, also a native of Norway. In the year 1868 they came to America, locating soon after at Lanesboro. During that summer Mr. Loveland was employed by the Lanesboro Company, and in the fall opened a school in the village which he taught for several years. He discontinued teaching, however, to take up the cooperage trade in which occupation he was interested for a period of years after. Mr. Loveland was a prominent worker for the interests of the Lutheran church of Lanesboro, and for many years occupied the offices of deacon and secretary. In 1880 he was elected from the first district to the state legislature, filling the office with credit and satisfaction. In 1894 he was ordained at Minneapolis to the ministry as a United Lutheran preacher. By his marriage to Thaaraand Asland, was born one child, Thorine, who is now the wife of Representative J. O. Rustad of Amherst. Mrs. Thaaraand (Asland) Loveland died January 27, 1876, and on November 7, 1878, Mr. Loveland married Anna Maria Westernen. To them were born four children: Edwin, Otto, Bertha and Agnes. Mr. Loveland was summoned to the Great Beyond March 11, 1900. Mrs. Loveland now makes her home near Fillmore, North Dakota. The death of Mr. Loveland removed from Fillmore county one of its highly respected and Christian men. He was a kind hearted man, true and loyal in his beliefs and was held in high esteem in the town and county where for so many years he occupied various offices of trust and honor.



MR. AND MRS. J. O. RUSTAD AND RESIDENCE



Ole Abrahanson Rustad was born in Hadeland, Norway, March 4, 1830, and there received his education and grew to manhood. In 1849 he crossed the Atlantic Ocean and came to America. After his arrival, he came west to Iowa, located near Claremont, and there made his home for nine years. In 1858 he came to Fillmore county, located on section 1, in Amherst township, and there engaged in general farming. He broke and improved the land, and by hard work and progressive efforts made his way, first erecting a log cabin and later a more modern home and outbuildings. In 1873 he built the large and commodious barn, 50 by 60 feet, which still stands on the farm. In the early days he rented his farm and started for Pike's Peak to reap his fortune in the gold field, but owing to difficulties which had to be encountered, he never reached the Land of Gold. He later went to Grant and Ottertail counties in western Minnesota, with the early pioneers, and purchased land, but never made his home there. He was a man of sterling qualities and by his own efforts and true heartedness, became one of the representative citizens of Fillmore county. As the years passed he prospered, due to his ambitious and untiring efforts. He was married in the year 1855, at Moscow, Wisconsin, to Martha Baalerud, a native of Norway, who proved a worthy helpmate throughout all their married life. She was a God-fearing woman, a good wife and a loving mother. They were the parents of seven children: Hans, now of Grant county, Minnesota; Carl, also of Grant county, Minnesota; Julia, now Mrs. Hans Hoff, of Holt township; J. O., who owns the old home farm in Amherst; Betsy, now Mrs. Martin Torgerud, of Holt; Peter, of Montana; and Carl, who died in infancy. Ole Abrahanson Rustad died March 17, 1891. Mrs. Martha (Baalerud) Rustad died October 12, 1899.

J. O. Rustad, who was elected to the state legislature in 1909, re-elected in 1911, and served in the special session of 1912, has ever taken an active interest in the political affairs of Fillmore county. He has also been prominently identified with township offices, having been assessor of Amherst for a period of nine years and is now serving as clerk of his school district. Mr. Rustad is a native of Amherst township, having been born December 7, 1864, son of Ole Abrahanson and Martha (Baalerud) Rustad. He attended school in district 27 and spent vacation periods on the home farm where he assisted his father. He attended the Rushford high school in 1884, after which he entered and graduated from the Decorah Business College in 1886. After completing his studies he went west to Grant county where he followed book-keeping and clerking one year. He then returned to Amherst township, which has since been his home.

Mr. Rustad is at present residing on the old homestead which he has greatly beautified and improved. He owns 345 acres of valuable land on which he carries on modern and scientific farming, being one of the most progressive citizens of Amherst. He has just erected a beautiful new modern home of pebble dash, which is the only building of its material and style of architecture in Fillmore county. The home is modern in every respect, containing a large and up-to-date reservoir, a heating plant of the hot water system and electric lights operated by his independent plant. His broad acres and his beautiful home with its picturesque surroundings, and its neat appearance, bespeak the thrift and enterprise of both Mr. Rustad and his amiable wife. Mr. Rustad was married January 17, 1892, to Thorine Loveland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellef Loveland, and to this union five children have been born: Olaf, Ella, Mabel, Alice and Agnes. The members of the family belong to the United Lutheran church and are attendants and liberal contributors to the Elstad church of that body.

**Hans P. Sethre**, a progressive farmer of Holt township, was born on the farm on which he now resides, March 25, 1860, son of John H. and Martha (Stenshoel) Sethre. The subject of this biography has spent his entire life to date on the old home farm. When a boy he attended the district school and worked for his father and after he became 26 years of age, purchased the farm, his parents reserving a life lease of the same. Mr. Sethre has made many improvements on his property, built an addition to the house, also one to the barn. He conducts general diversified farming together with some stock raising and dairying. Aside from the business in this state, Mr. Sethre owns 160 acres in North Dakota. He affiliates with the Republican party. He is a member of the Elsted Lutheran church and has served as treasurer of that organization for two years. On October 22, 1885, Caroline M. Elsted, who was born April 13, 1863, daughter of Martin and Marian (Trulsun) Elsted, natives of Norway, became the wife of Mr. Sethre and they are the parents of: Henry O., born December 18, 1886, of Benedict, N. D.; Selmer E., born March 11, 1888, at home; Clara M., born April 7, 1890; Aleda L., born May 20, 1898; Martin W., born April 31, 1895, and Johannes S., born June 7, 1905.

**John H. Sethre**, deceased, was born in Eidsvold, Norway, January 16, 1825. His education was acquired in the schools of that country, and there he grew to manhood. In the spring of 1852 he married Martha Stenshoel, also a native of Eidsvold, and immediately after brought his bride to America. They came

directly to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore county, remaining for two years with Mrs. Sethre's parents, Peter and Martha Stenshoel, who came to America with them to join a son, living in Amherst township. In 1854, Mr. Sethre took a homestead of 160 acres in section 33, Holt township, and set about preparing it for cultivation. It was mostly in timber and a great deal of hard work was required to clear this away, but eventually Mr. Sethre made it one of the productive and well cared for farms in the vicinity. To Mr. and Mrs. Sethre five children were born. Three of them are living: Mary, the wife of Reverend Johannes A. Hellestvedt of Decorah, Iowa; Lina, now Mrs. Ole M. Blagstvedt, of Amherst township; Hans P., a farmer in Holt township. Mrs. Martha (Stenshoel) Sethre died in November, 1866, and in December of the following year, Mr. Sethre married Mary Jensen, who was born at Nanstad, Norway, in March, 1839, and came to America with a sister about 1866. To this marriage were born two children: Matilda, now Mrs. Peter Abrahamson of Holt township; and Hilda, the wife of Albert Overgaard, of Amherst township. The members of the family were earnest workers in the Lutheran church and Mr. Sethre took an active part in all church affairs. In March, 1897, Mr. Sethre entered into rest. His widow and a son, Hans P., live on the home farm to which she has a life lease.

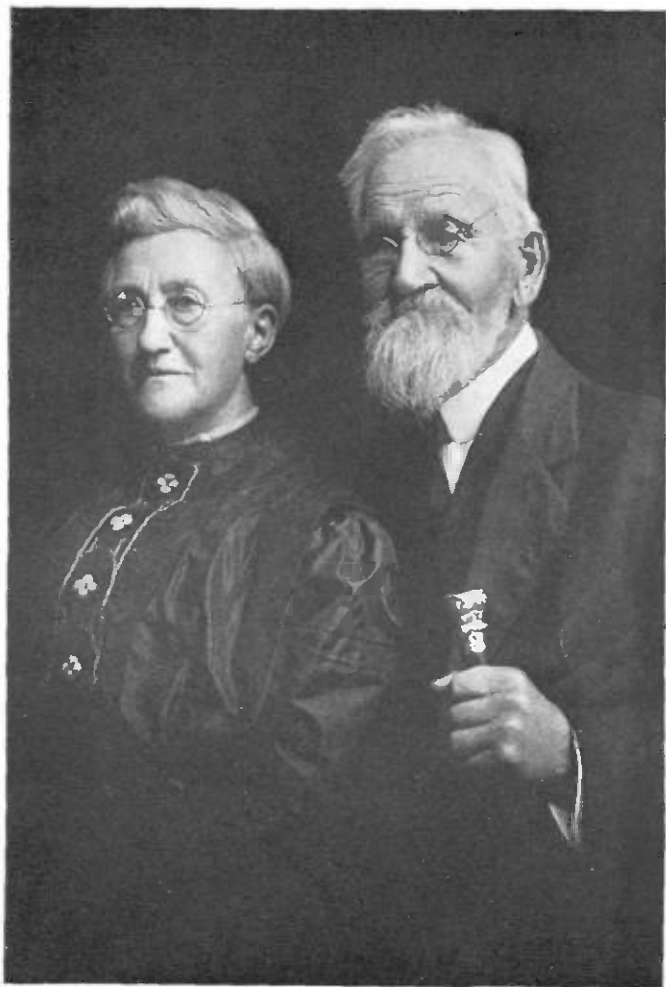
**Martin T. Anderson**, now deceased, was born in Rinericker, Norway, March 4, 1837, son of Andrew Thrulson, and Marie, his wife. The mother died in the old country, and the father came to America in 1862, purchased a farm in Holt township, and proceeded to break and improve the land. Martin T. was educated in the common schools, came to America in 1860, and bought a farm of 160 acres in Holt township, where he spent the remainder of his days. He married Dora Fossum, born near Christiania, Norway, June 24, 1846, and this union was blessed with two daughters: Madeline, born June 3, 1881, and Cora Otelia, born May 2, 1883. Martin T. Anderson passed away December 1, 1903, and his wife, May 17, 1912. The daughters are now living in a house of their own at Highland, the home farm having been sold in 1910. In connection with the house is an acre of land, providing ample space for a garden.

**Martin T. Ask**, progressive farmer and citizen of Pilot Mound township, was born in Amherst in 1856. His parents, Thomas and Carrie (Holt) Ask, were natives of Norway, who came to America in 1851 and settled in Wisconsin, where the father worked in Beloit for a year and a half at blacksmithing, after which they moved to this county and bought a farm in Amherst,



which they sold two years later, then moving to Preston, where they now reside. Martin T. acquired a common school education and until twenty-three years of age worked on the home farm. In 1879 he purchased a farm in Preston, which he operated for fifteen years, then disposed of, after which he bought his present property in Pilot Mound. Mr. Ask's farm comprises 423½ acres located in sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, and here he carries on general farming and stock raising. He owns a pure bred Shorthorn sire and also blooded Duroc-Jersey hogs. He likewise owns fifteen horses and finds ready sale for those he annually raises. In politics, Mr. Ask votes the Republican ticket and has served with credit in various offices in his township, having been director and treasurer of school board for nine years, also road overseer for three or four terms. He is a stockholder in the Independent Harvester Company, of Plano, Illinois, and owns stock in the Arendahl Creamery. He is president of the Lanesboro and Pilot Mound Telephone Company, and was one of the prime movers in the effort to get the telephone installed in Pilot Mound. On December 29, 1879, Mr. Ask married Caroline Elstad, daughter of Albert Larson and Mathea (Peterson) Elstad. To this marriage twelve children have been born, ten of whom are now living: Carl, who took a college course in agriculture and is now in Billings, Montana, operating a livery; Mary, the second child; Mathea, wife of Albert Haugen; Emelie, wife of John E. Tollefson; Anton, who attended business course in LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Henry, who is a student at the Decorah (Iowa) Normal College; Thomas, Clara M., Cornelius and Alma J. The members of the family belong to the United Lutheran church.

Robert M. Foster, one of the venerable and honored pioneers of Fillmore county, is now living in Austin, in this state, having last year passed the four score and ten mark of his span of years. He was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, November 25, 1821, son of John and Catherine (Cosgray) Foster, the former born in Maryland, and the latter in Ireland, she coming to America at the age of twelve years. Robert M. grew to manhood in Fayette county, and when twenty-two years of age went to Jefferson county, Ohio, there remaining ten years. At the close of that period he started for Minnesota, taking a trip by rail to Pittsburgh, Pa., thence to Cairo, Ill., by boat, then up the Mississippi to St. Louis, and thence to Dubuque, Iowa, remaining there a month. From there he came to Fillmore county, and on October 1, 1853, opened a store in partnership with his friend, Felix Meighen, of honored memory. In 1868 Mr. Foster disposed of his interests in the store to his partner, and in 1876 went four miles west of his first residence and purchased a half section in



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT M. FOSTER

Forestville township, on which tract he farmed until 1885, when he sold out and purchased a half section near Preston. Some years ago he retired, and took up his residence in a large and pleasant home on Kenwood avenue, Austin, Minn., where he is spending the twilight years of his life, surrounded by love and comfort and tender attention. On November 25, 1912, he will be ninety-one years old. Mr. Foster married, in 1854, for his first wife, Elizabeth Renslow, who bore him ten children, all of whom, except one, are living. Elizabeth Foster died on the farm near Preston on January 12, 1892, and later, on April 10, 1893, Mr. Foster married Magdaline Van Mackelenbergh, a native of Holland. Mr. Foster served one term as county commissioner, being elected as a Greenbacker. Thomas Quinn of Preston and Edward Stevens of Fountain, also Greenbackers, were members of that board. This so-called "Greenback board" made a splendid record for economy. Mr. Foster held the office of justice of peace for many years during the early days and was master of ceremonies at many of the pioneer weddings.

G. B. Ellestad, popular jeweler, residing in Lanesboro, was born in Newburg township November 18, 1860, son of Iver and Julia (Garnaas) Ellestad. He was reared on the home farm and attended school in Dist. No. 5. When 20 years of age, he started in life by accepting a position with a jewelry concern as traveling salesman and served in that capacity for two or three years. Later, he entered into partnership with Bacon Brothers in Mabel and this partnership continued for two and a half years. January 1, 1890, Mr. Ellestad came to Lanesboro and there opened a jewelry store, which he has since conducted, meeting the wants of his customers with an excellent line of modern goods, and treating all with honesty and courtesy. He married Anna Anderson, daughter of M. S. Anderson, and they are parents of Irwin M., Gerhard A., and Reuben. The family belongs to the Bethlehem Lutheran church, of Lanesboro.

Iver Ellestad, one of Fillmore county's pioneers, was born in Valdres, Norway, and grew to manhood in his home country. With several fellow countrymen, he immigrated to this country in 1849, then being twenty-one years of age. Locating first in Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin, he there spent some time at various employments and later worked in various places. In 1855 he came to Fillmore county and settled on section 28, Newburg township. There, with his good wife, he endured many privations, which were a part of the lives of the pioneers. But with endless courage and fortitude, he labored on his property and made it yield good crops and as the years succeeded each

other, he grew more and more prosperous. He and his worthy helpmeet, Julia (Garnaas) Ellestad, were the parents of nine children. Those living are: G. B., of Lanesboro; Mrs. H. T. Hendrickson, of Sheyenne, N. D.; Mrs. M. Wisness, of Maddock, N. D.; Julia Ellestad, of Bowbells, N. D.; Sophia Ellestad, of Mabel; Mrs. P. I. Loughray, of Kansas City, Mo.; and Bernt Ellestad, of Mabel. Mr. Ellestad died in 1890, and his widow is still living on the old homestead in Newburg.

Ole Jensen was born in Norway March 9, 1830, came to America in 1857, settled in Spring Grove, Iowa, lived there until 1866, and then came to Fillmore county, and purchased a farm of 120 acres in sections 3 and 24, Holt township, where he still resides, now boarding with the people to whom he sold it. In 1865, while at Spring Grove, Mr. Jensen was drafted for service in the Civil war, but was discharged owing to the cessation of hostilities. He married Carrie Krouse, now deceased.

William A. Pease, now deceased, county official, state law-maker, successful farmer and substantial citizen, was of Green Mountain stock, born in Weston, Windsor county, Vermont, November 23, 1822, son of Alpheus and Lucy (Foster) Pease, also natives of Vermont. As a boy he received a limited education, but supplemented this by wide reading, close observation and close insight, achieving his success in life through his own efforts. Like many a youth of his period and locality, he started out to see the world as a young man, peddling goods for seven years among the farmers of New England. After this he engaged for seven years in the mercantile business, at Weston, the town of his birth. In April, 1857, he came to Fillmore county, and purchased 160 acres of land in section 8, at \$11.25 an acre, thus laying the foundation of his life's work in agricultural pursuits. He broke and cleared the land and erected a good set of buildings, adding to his holdings from time to time until at the time of his death he owned 930 acres. While he devoted his life mainly to tilling the soil, he also made a specialty of stock raising and fattened stock which was marketed at the Chicago stock yards through local dealers. In public life, Mr. Pease ever stood for that which was best. He served in many minor offices from time to time, was chairman of his town, was county commissioner several terms, and a member of the legislature in 1874. In both public and private life he was a man of good judgment and farsightedness, and was held in the highest esteem and respect by all who knew him. Mr. Pease was married February 28, 1853, to Harriet E. Wheeler, born in Windsor county, Vermont, March 3, 1828. This union was blessed with three chil-

dren. William Sherwin and Nathan W. died in infancy. Thad W. lives on the home farm. William A. Pease died December 11, 1903, and his wife died December 23, 1888.

**Thad W. Pease**, successful farmer and stock breeder, was born on the farm where he now resides in Chatfield township February 18, 1867, son of William A. and Harriet E. (Wheeler) Pease. He received his education in the public schools, and graduated from the Chatfield high school in 1885, being the first boy to complete the course in that institution. After that he devoted his life to helping on the farm until his father's death, when he inherited the estate. Since that time he has added to the original tract until he now owns 1,050 acres. He has made many improvements and has a fine equipment of buildings, including a barn 48 by 104 feet, with twenty-four feet posts, one of the largest in the county. The whole place speaks of success, prosperity, thrift and enterprise. Like his father before him, he follows stock raising, feeding annually from two to three hundred cattle and raising each year about 100 hogs. Aside from his residence and other buildings on the home plot, he has three tenement houses, each equipped with suitable buildings. In these houses reside his assistants. Mr. Pease married Mary Walther September 1, 1898, and they have two children: William A., born May 27, 1900, and named from his grandfather; and Harriet E., born October 1, 1903, and named from her grandmother.

Henry Walther, the father of Mrs. Thad W. Pease, was born in Germany, July 18, 1833, and came to this country in 1846, being married at Jefferson, Wis., in June, 1853, to Christina Buchta, who was born in Germany, April 13, 1834, and came to this country in 1848. In 1857 they came to Minnesota, and settled on a farm in Winona county, from which place the father enlisted in the Civil war. In 1866 they moved to Meriden township, Steel county, Minn., where the father still lives, the mother having died June 2, 1911.

**Ole K. Eeg** was born in Stavanger, Norway, February 2, 1835, oldest son of Knudt and Martha (Olson) Eeg, the former of whom died in Norway. Ole K. came to America in 1854 and settled in La Salle, Illinois, remaining there for one year, after which he removed to Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin, and one year later to McGregor, Iowa. He made his home in the town of McGregor for two years, employed as a farm hand and as a store clerk. In 1858, he came to Minnesota and two years later bought a farm of 160 acres, in section 26, Holt township, where he resided for fifty years. Here he was joined in 1861 by his younger brother, Thomas, who soon enlisted in Co. D, Third Minnesota

Volunteer Infantry, went south, was taken prisoner at Memphis, Tennessee, paroled, returned to Holt, later engaged in the war with Indians on the frontier, afterward again went south and died in a hospital at Little Rock, Arkansas, aged 24 years. In the spring of 1865 Mrs. Martha (Olson) Eeg, accompanied by her youngest son, Samuel, crossed the ocean to America and came west to Minnesota, remaining with Ole K. for a short time, afterward going to Otter Tail county, where they took a homestead and resided for the remainder of their lives, the mother passing away in 1908 and Samuel in 1911. As time passed and Ole K. the subject of this sketch, grew more prosperous, he added to his original possessions and eventually became the owner of 210 acres in Holt township, where he carried on agricultural industries for many years. During the month of April, 1906, he retired from active life on the farm and moved to Whalan, where he now lives. He has long been a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican party, but never sought public office. On June 15, 1860, Mr. Eeg married Maria Olson, daughter of Even and Ingebor Olson, and this union has been blessed with seven children: Oscar T., who conducts an implement store at Walford, North Dakota; Charles E., farming near Whitewater, South Dakota; Martin B., farming on the old homestead in Holt township; Ida, now Mrs. O. E. Miller, of Hettinger, North Dakota; Nellie J., now Mrs. Edward Thompson of Walford, North Dakota; Clara, residing at home; Edward, farming at Walford, North Dakota.

**Martin Knudtson** was born on his present farm February 2, 1872, third child of Ole Knudtson Eeg and Maria (Olson) Eeg, natives of Stavanger and Svelvig, Norway. He was educated in the district schools of Holt township, and worked for his parents on the home farm until 1901, during which year he moved to Pierce county, N. D., there taking a claim of 172 acres, which he worked for four years. At the expiration of this period of time, Mr. Knudtson returned to Holt township and rented his father's farm. He traded his property in North Dakota during February, 1911, for the family homestead of 200 acres, on which he conducts general farming, stock raising and dairying. He affiliates with the Republican party and is a member of the Elsted Lutheran church. On November 29, 1899, he was married at Fargo, N. D., to Julia Frederickson, and this marriage has been blessed with five children: Geneva M., born October 21, 1900; Olga H., born September 9, 1902; Esther N., born April 22, 1905; Milton J., born August 9, 1909, and Henry Oscar, born October 31, 1911. Mrs. Julia (Frederickson) Knudtson was born October 11, 1876, daughter of Helmer and Johanna (Qualey) Frederickson. Her

father was born in Sogn, Norway, and came to America in 1862, settling near Spring Grove, where he met and won his future wife who had been born in that place. Mr. Knudtson has made many changes and improvements on the old homestead. He has taken an interest in public affairs, and in 1910 served as census enumerator for Holt township and Whalan village.

**Even Olson** and Ingebor Olson, his wife, were born near Christiania, Norway, and came to this country in 1853. They located first in Muskego, Wisconsin, and there resided for a period of three years, after which they moved to Minnesota and settled in Holt township, this county. Here Mr. Olson bought 160 acres. This he sold to his son-in-law, Ole Eeg, but continued to make his home on the farm. In 1861, Mr. Olson enlisted in Co. D, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front. Taken prisoner at Memphis, Tennessee, he was later paroled, after which he was taken ill and for several months was in the hospital at Fort Snelling. He received an honorable discharge and in 1865 went to Otter Tail county and took a claim of 160 acres. About 1899 Mr. Olson moved to Holt township, where he died in 1903 at 92 years of age. Mrs. Olson passed away in 1876, aged 64 years. They had one child, Maria, who later became Mrs. Ole K. Eeg.

**Vital LeFevere**, deceased, better known as "Vic" LeFevere, one of the pioneer settlers of Forestville township, was born in France, April 27, 1825. In 1841 he crossed the ocean to America, first locating in St. Louis where he remained one year. Then he made a trip to California and from there took an ocean voyage back home to France, where he remained but a short period, after which he again returned to America and located in Wisconsin. In 1855 he came to this county, established his home on a farm in Forestville township and there followed farming the balance of his life. He was a man of sterling qualities and of the progressive type. His first farm contained 320 acres, where he built a log cabin, his first home. He broke the land, bringing it to a good state of cultivation; and as time passed, he prospered and added to his original holdings, until he had over 800 acres of land. The log cabin was replaced by a more modern frame dwelling and a good set of outbuildings were erected. Here he passed the remainder of his days encircled by a large chain of friends and companions, and his name will ever be a link which connects the early history of Fillmore county, to its present progressive developments. He died June 20, 1895. In 1859 he was united in marriage to Sarah Lilly, who was born April 21, 1846, and died August 22, 1899. They were the parents of five children

dren: Sabina, now Mrs. Henry Haslam of Etna, this county; Arimie of Bloomfield, who married Nettie Richardson; Leon, who was in the treasury department of Washington for twenty-three years, and is now deceased; Amelia, who died at eight years of age; and Mary, who is now Mrs. Wm. Seely of Spring Valley.

Arimie LeFevere, one of the representative and substantial farmers of Bloomfield township, was born in Forestville township April 5, 1862, son of Vital and Sarah (Lilly) LeFevere. He received his education at the district schools, after which he engaged in agricultural pursuits with his father. In later years he engaged in farming for himself and owns at the present time 370 acres. He carries on general and dairy farming. He has a pleasant residence, and a substantial set of outbuildings, and these together with the neatness of his lawns and the general appearance of the farm land, bespeak the thrift and energy of their owner. Mr. LeFevere is interested in the progress and uplift of whatever tends toward the advancement of agricultural interest. He was married November 25, 1887, to Nettie Richardson, and to them three children have been born: Laura married Major Foster, and they reside in Forestville township. Lloyd and Carroll are at home.

John McLaughlin, who has been a citizen of Fillmore county since 1857, can relate many interesting anecdotes of the pioneer days. Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1823, he there attended school and spent twenty-three years of his life. In 1846 he came to America and lived for nine years in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Proceeding west in 1855, he located at Woodstock, McHenry county, Illinois, where he spent two years, after which he came to Minnesota and located in Carrolton township, this county. The farm which he first occupied, later became the center of the present village of Lanesboro. In 1872 he married Mrs. Mary Durkin, widow of John Durkin, who died in 1870. Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin moved to Amherst township located on section four, and there resided for several years carrying on farming industry. In 1889 they returned to Lanesboro, which place has since been the family home. Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin are the parents of one son, Frank, a railroad man in Montana. Mrs. (Durkin) McLaughlin, by her marriage with John Durkin, had eight children of whom six are now living: Mary married Oscar Lewis; they have two children and are residents of Amherst township. James lives in Virginia, Katie in Lanesboro, John in North Dakota, and Thomas in Lanesboro. Margaret is now Mrs. John Galligan; they have one daughter, Mary, and reside in Holt township. Mrs. McLaughlin was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas



Wimsey. She died in 1897, and Mr. McLaughlin now lives with his step-daughter, Katie Durkin, of Lanesboro. Although nearly four score years and ten, Mr. McLaughlin has a remarkably clear mind and takes an active interest in all present-day affairs.

**Edwin P. Thompson**, a prosperous farmer of Pilot Mound township, operates 200 acres of his father's farm in section 15. He owns considerable stock and excellent machinery, gives particular attention to diversified farming and raises stock of good breed. In 1910 he was elected clerk of his township, was twice re-elected and is now serving. He is an officer of the local M. W. A. After receiving his preliminary education at the district school, he entered Valdar Business College of Decorah, Iowa, and there completed a course in 1901. Two years later he went to Portal, North Dakota, where he took a homestead near what is now the town of Crosby. This farm which he rents is now all under cultivation. After three years in North Dakota, he returned to Fillmore county and here has taken an active part in public enterprises. He was one of the organizers of the Pilot Mound church and for three years was secretary of the Lanesboro and Pilot Mound Telephone Company.

**Peter Thompson**, respected citizen of Pilot Mound township, was born in Tellemarken, Norway, April 16, 1839, son of Thoruf and Tarjer Thompson. His father died in Norway and the mother came to America with Peter, and her four other sons, in 1861. They came west to Minnesota soon after their arrival in the United States and located on a farm in Arendahl township. Peter, the son, worked as a farm hand for six years after coming to Minnesota and later bought property in Winona county which he operated until 1876. During that year he traded this property for eighty acres on section 15, Pilot Mound township, this county, and has since made this his home. As opportunity and prosperity have afforded, Mr. Thompson has added to his original acres and now owns 455 acres, which is situated on sections 11, 14, 15, and 21. For many years he has carried on successful farming operations but at present lives practically a retired life. Mr. Thompson was one of the organizers of the North Prairie church and of the Pilot Mound church, and has ever been an active worker for the general upbuilding of his township and county. In 1909 he returned to the land of his birth for a visit. Pilot Mound, for which the township is named, stands on Mr. Thompson's farm. He was married March 8, 1866, to Ingeborg Lovra, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Torkel Lovra, and to them was born one child, Tena, now Mrs. Hans Peterson. Mrs. Ingeborg (Lovra) Thompson died in February, 1867. On July 24,

1872, Mr. Thompson married Anna Jertson Mennis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jert Mennis, and by this marriage, seven children were born, Thomas P., Isabel A., George P., Albert P., Edwin P., Peter Oscar, and Odeana P. Thomas P. married Mathilda Dahl and lives on a farm near Edmore, North Dakota. Isabel A. is the wife of Ingebret Peterson of Gascoyne, North Dakota, and they are the parents of seven children. George P. married Matilda Erickson, lives near Crosby, North Dakota, and is the father of two children. Albert P. married Maria Erickson and operates 200 acres of his father's farm in section 14, and owns 160 acres near Crosby, North Dakota. He is clerk of the school board in his township and is also an office holder in the Modern Woodmen of America. Edwin P. lives with his parents. Peter Oscar died in 1885.

**Knut O. Vogaard**, deceased, was born in Hallingdal, Norway, January 14, 1826. When he was but six years of age, his parents died, after which he made his home with relatives. He grew to manhood in his native country and there acquired his education and began his life's work as a farmer. In 1854 he came to America and located first in Waupun, Wisconsin, remaining there for two years, after which he came to Minnesota and settled in section 32, Holt township, where he pre-empted 160 acres on which he made his home until his death. As the years passed and he became more prosperous, he gradually added to his holdings, finally becoming the owner of 440 acres. Politically, Mr. Vogaard was a Republican, though he never sought public office. On February 20, 1856, he married Mary Griner, who was born in Hadeland, Norway, on December 1, 1835, and after the death of her father came to America with her mother and one brother, Ole. To Mr. and Mrs. Vogaard eight children were born, five of whom are now living: Caroline, the wife of Hans Rustad of Elbow Lake, Minnesota; Bedille, now Mrs. Paul Hoff of Knox, N. D.; Mary, who married S. M. Larson and lives at Knox, N. D.; Casper, prominent farmer of Holt township; and Matilda, the wife of Manvil Oleson of St. Paul. Mr. Vogaard died on July 9, 1906, and his widow passed away four years later on April 18, 1910.

**Casper K. Vogaard** was born on the farm which he now occupies, June 1, 1869, son of Knut and Mary (Griner) Vogaard. He attended the district school near home and therein acquired his education. For ten years he rented the home farm, but in 1911, during which year the estate was settled, he bought 280 acres of the old homestead in section 32, which he operates and where he makes his home. He carries on general farming and dairying



KNUT O. VOGAARD AND FAMILY

and is progressive and modern in methods and management. He has greatly improved his farm, laid cement walks, bettered his house with additions and repairs, and installed an acetylene gas plant. A Republican in politics, he has never been an office seeker, but has given his whole time and attention to caring for the farm. June 8, 1904, he married Josephine Johnson, born November 4, 1873, daughter of Iver and Lina (Saevig) Johnson, natives of Norway but at present residents of Lanesboro. Mr. and Mrs. Vogard are the parents of Mary Lillian, born in August, 1905; Luella Iverine, born in September, 1906; Clarence Joseph, born in August, 1908, and Mabel Louise, born in April, 1910. The family are respected members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Tollef O. Redalen** was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, March 16, 1850, son of Ole and Ingebor (Raisa) Tulstad, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1847 and operated a farm in Rock county, Wisconsin, until the father's death in 1857, after which the mother moved to Fillmore county, where she still resides, now being the wife of Nels Thorson. Tollef O. Redalen, subject of this biography, worked for his mother for many years and attended the country school near home. When he became twenty-one years of age he bought 230 acres in section 32, Pilot Mound township, to which he has added 118 acres, making a farm of 248 acres on which he follows general farming, stock raising and dairying. He raises Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, Shropshire sheep and abundant crops of grain and each succeeding year bears witness to his increasing prosperity. A member of the Republican party, he has been elected to serve as director of the school board for nine years, and president of the Norwegian school for a similar period of time. He is a member of the United Lutheran church. Mary, daughter of Ole Solie, became the wife of Mr. Redalen on July 16, 1872, and to this marriage have been born: Annie O., Ingvald O., Nels (deceased), Thea M., Simon, Minnie, Oline, Theodore, Alma, and Lily. Simon, Theodore and Lily now have charge of the old home farm, which the sons work on shares; Annie is the wife of Olaf Skrukrud; Ingvald married Julia Iverson; Nels married Hannah Carlson; Thea is now Mrs. Christ Kvale; Minnie married Ingvald Finneseth; Oline is the wife of Elmer Brekke; and Alma married Erwin Thorson.

**O. M. Sletvold**, representative farmer living in Preston township, now carries on agricultural operations on the farm where he was born June 14, 1871, son of Margaret and Martin O. Sletvold. His father emigrated from Norway to America about 1866,

came to Minnesota and settled in Preston township, being employed for a period of two years by Mrs. Erdahl, to whom he was later married. They owned a quarter section of land on which stood a rude log cabin and there they lived many years and raised their children. In 1878 a frame dwelling was erected and in this they spent the remainder of their lives, the father entering into rest March 26, 1896, and mother, March 12, 1904. O. M., subject of this sketch, worked on the home farm with his father and attended school in district 136 during the years of his boyhood. As his father grew old and infirm, M. O. gradually assumed charge of the home farm, which became his after his father's death. This property comprises 260 acres, of which 160 are under cultivation. Though in past years, Mr. Sletvold engaged in general farming, he is now devoting more and more time to stock raising. He has a comfortable dwelling and substantial outbuildings, and the well kept appearance of his home and farm, denote prosperity and careful management. Mary, daughter of Olaves Flotten of Carrolton township, became the wife of Mr. Sletvold and to them has been born one son, Martin Osgar, now a lad of sixteen years.

**Peter McCracken**, now deceased, was one of the most prominent of the early pioneers. Well versed in the law, a natural leader of men, an able statesman, absolutely honorable in all his dealings, far seeing of vision, frugal and industrious, he was well suited to become a pioneer in a new country. In territorial days he filled various appointive offices, in statehood days he served in various school and town offices, was a member of the county board of commissioners, was a member of the legislature for six terms, and served as delegate to numerous conventions and gatherings. When the Old Settlers' Association was formed, he took an active interest in its welfare, served as an officer, and delivered a number of talks which are an important part of the recorded history of this county. In all he was a useful citizen, and his memory will long be revered. Peter McCracken was born in Newton, Stewart, Wigtown county, Scotland, December 26, 1829, son of Peter and Janet (Arnet) McCracken, natives of Scotland, the former of whom was a sea captain and was drowned while in command of a ship. Peter, as a boy, had few school advantages. He worked and studied the best he could, and by dint of reading and observation became a man of considerable learning. In 1846 he came to the United States, and lived in Erie county, N. Y., until 1855, when he came to Minnesota and pre-empted a quarter section in section 3, York township, where he continued to live the remainder of his life. Being a close student of the law, he was admitted to the practice of this profession, and de-

voted the remainder of his life to public affairs, and farming. After a long and purposeful life he passed away May 4, 1908, and was laid to rest, loved by an entire community. Mr. McCracken was married in Erie county, N. Y., March 19, 1855, to Elmina G. Ingalls, born in Holland, Erie county, N. Y., daughter of David and Elizabeth (Richardson) Ingalls, prominent residents of that locality. Mr. and Mrs. McCracken were the parents of five children. Jermie died in infancy. John J. died at eight years. Janet E. died at five years. Jessie L. lives on the home farm with her mother, looking after the business affairs of the farm, and attending her mother in her declining years. William P. lives in Forestville township. Since the death of Mr. McCracken, Mrs. McCracken has been content to remain on the home place, where she has made many improvements.

**William P. McCracken** was born in York township, August 31, 1863, son of Peter and Elmina G. (Ingalls) McCracken. At the age of thirty years he purchased a farm of 160 acres in Forestville township and has now become one of the leading farmers of his vicinity. He is independent in politics, and has been constable for several years. He married Yetta Graban January 1, 1896, and they have four children: Harry, Dorris, John and Collin.

**J. O. Peterson** was born in Amherst township December 1, 1863, son of Ole and Carrie Peterson, who came to America with a daughter, Betsey, and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin. After two years' residence in Wisconsin, his parents came to Amherst township, there locating and spending the remainder of their lives, the mother dying in 1882 and the father in 1910. To this union nine children were born, three of which are dead. J. O., subject of this sketch, attended school, worked with his father on the farm and when twenty years of age, began his business career by buying a stallion. In 1887 Mr. Peterson moved to Lanesboro and there engaged in operating a dray line, continuing this business for two years. At the expiration of that period of time he sold out and went to North Dakota where he filed on a homestead, selling the relinquishment at the end of two years, after which he returned to Lanesboro. In 1891 Mr. Peterson in partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. Johnson, bought a livery in Lanesboro and carried on that business for six years, then disposing of his interest and moving to a farm in section 2, which he had acquired by trading the livery. For some time he operated his farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits, later moving to town. He now resides on a farm near Lanesboro, conducting a dairy.

On January 2, 1892, Nettie, daughter of Ole Johnson, became his wife, and they have eight children: Selmer, who married Petre Simonson; Ovidia, Pearl, Walter, Serena, Neil, Evelyn and Stanley. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Olaf Knutson Finseth**, an esteemed resident of Pilot Mound township, was born in Norway, January 17, 1860, son of Knut and Kari (Olsen) Mesalt, who in 1862 brought him to America, where the father soon died. The mother later married Thor Tolofson, who had taken a homestead in Pilot Mound during 1855, improved his property and prepared it for cultivation. Olaf K., subject of this biography, attended the country school near home and assisted his step-father with the farm work. After the death of the latter, in 1874, he assumed charge of the farm, although then but fourteen years of age, living with his mother until her death, when he became owner of the property. Mr. Finseth now owns 120 acres on sections thirty-one and thirty-two, Pilot Mound, also twenty acres on section six, Carrolton. Here he carries on general farming and stock raising. He makes a specialty of raising a good breed of Norman Percheron horses and is a stockholder in the Fountain Percheron Horse Company. He raises graded Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs and Shropshire sheep. Politically Mr. Finseth is a Republican and has occupied many prominent public offices, having served with satisfaction as town chairman and supervisor for many years, town assessor two years, road overseer for one year, and school clerk seventeen years. During his term of office as town chairman he was instrumental in building the largest bridge in the township and caused the new road to the bridge approach to be laid out. Aside from his political offices, Mr. Finseth has represented the interests of his fellow men in his church, the Root Prairie Lutheran, and has served as trustee for six years. He is clerk of the Root Prairie Telephone Company. In January, 1881, he married Irene Sorenson, daughter of Erik and Irene Sophia (Lunda) Sorenson, and to them Ida Carolina, Tillie, Edwin, Selma, Theodore Rinehart, Justin and Lillian have been born. Edwin married Aleda Danielson, and Selma is the wife of Lewis Peterson.

**Elias A. Ness**, a progressive citizen of Pilot Mound, has occupied many public offices in that township, among which are supervisor for many years, town assessor eight years, clerk of school board for twelve years and pathmaster several times. He was born in Wisconsin, February 21, 1860, son of Andrew and Annie (Bringe) Ness, natives of Norway, who came to this country in

1853 and located in Wisconsin. In 1860 they moved to Pilot Mound, where the father bought a farm, which he broke and developed, experiencing great difficulty in procuring water. Elias was educated in the common schools of the township and later entered high school in Rushford. After completing his education he worked with his father at well drilling and threshing. In 1889 Mr. Ness bought the home farm, as his father retired from active life and moved into Rushford. He now owns 290 acres, having disposed of 100 acres. Together with his general farming, he makes a specialty of raising pure bred Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs. He owns fourteen horses for general farm work, which were formerly used to operate his threshing machine, now operated by steam. Mr. Ness was the first resident of Pilot Mound to use steam power for threshing, and he is ever alert for modern improvements in carrying on his farm industries. He is a stockholder in the Arendahl Creamery, also in the Independent Harvester Company, of Plano, Ill., and he owns stock in the Farmers & Merchants Telephone Company, of Lanesboro, being one of the prime movers in changing from the Bell System to the present one. December 9, 1888, Mr. Ness married Sena, daughter of Lasse and Magnilda (Roseter) Ostrem, and to their marriage have been born Albert, Lumen, Edwin and Justeen. Albert took a scientific course at St. Olaf College, at Northfield, Minn., and also studied agriculture at Minnesota University. Lumen graduates this year from the agricultural course in the University of Minnesota, and Edwin is a student in this department.

L. J. Kelsey, a respected citizen of Pilot Mound township, has had a most interesting life, fraught with various and thrilling events. Mr. Kelsey was born in Middleburgh, N. Y., December 23, 1839, son of Jonas and Eliza (Garrison) Kelsey, also natives of the Empire state. He grew to manhood and was educated in New York, and during the year of 1857 came west and settled in Wisconsin, where he attended school winters and worked for various farmers during the summer months. On April 27, 1859, he started west, intending to prospect for gold in the vicinity of Pike's Peak, but learning that this would be an almost hopeless venture, he went on to Nevada, and was employed making shingles, in Carson City. During the ensuing spring he went to Silver City, and there worked at mining, making a tunnel into a mountain. This tunnel of 105 feet in length he made in a period of fifty-two and a half days. Owing to the great cost of living—flour being \$35 for fifty pounds—Mr. Kelsey spent only about a year at Silver City. In 1861 he went to Sacramento, Cal., but the following year returned to Silver City. In Septem-



ber, 1863, he again started for California, and on October 3 of that same year embarked for New York, via Panama. En route the ship took fire in the Gulf of California, and Mr. Kelsey assisted in fighting the flames, which were finally extinguished. Upon their arrival in Panama, the passengers were not allowed to land in the city, the port being closed to citizens of the United States during the Civil War. They landed about a mile from the city, then marched between a file of black soldiers with bayonets fixed to the train which crossed the Isthmus. Upon his arrival in New York Mr. Kelsey again proceeded west to Pilot Mound, where he remained a short time, then going to Wisconsin and spending the winter of 1864. He later came back to Fillmore county and located permanently in Pilot Mound, where for two years he rented land and also engaged in carpenter work. In 1866 he bought the farm which he now operates. In 1884 his residence burned to the ground and until he built his present dwelling the family lived in a grain shed. His comfortable home was erected by himself, as were also other good buildings which stand on his farm. Mr. Kelsey owns 132 acres of land located on sections three, ten and twenty-seven, and carries on general, diversified farming and stock raising. Politically, he affiliates with the Republican party. He has many times been chairman and treasurer of the township, road overseer a considerable period, and member of the school board about twenty years, serving with general satisfaction to all. On December 25, 1865, Mr. Kelsey was united in marriage with Arvilla Hammer, born September 26, 1845, in Illinois, daughter of Ewell and Mary Ann (Matthews) Hammer. To this marriage have been born Sarah Elizabeth, Dolly Jane, George William, Ira Garrison. Sarah married George H. Smith; Dolly is the wife of Charles Person; and Ira, who operates the home farm, married Rosey Julian. Mr. and Mrs. Kelsey have eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The family faith is that of the Methodist church, of which the Kelseys have long been members.

Tosten L. Hegland, who was a venerable and respected citizen of Pilot Mound township, was born in Norway, in 1824, son of Lars and Anna (Kvamme) Hegland, who spent their lives in the land of their birth. During the year of 1853, Tosten L. Hegland came to America and located in Rock County, Wisconsin, where for five years he secured employment with various farmers in the vicinity. In 1858 he went to California to prospect for gold, and secured a good claim, which he named the "In and Out." He operated this claim for three years, then disposed of it and returned to Wisconsin, where he worked on a farm. A year later he went to Illinois and purchased land, where he carried

on farming operations for a period of five years, after which he sold and moved to Pilot Mound, here taking a farm of wild land, which had to be grubbed and broken. Water had to be carried up the bluffs, a distance of eighty rods from the house, and for ten years this was the only available water supply. On March 8, 1853, Mr. Hegland married Ingeborg Knudtsdatter, daughter of Knut and Gunil Knudtsdatter. To this marriage were born Lars, Knut, Andrina, Ryer and Thea Hansina. Lars and Knut now operate the home farm, which consists of 116 acres. Andrina married Thomas Osten, who died May 30, 1894, and to them were born Oscar and Alfred. Ryer married Aagaat Hagen, and to them have been born Ray and Alma Rose. Thea Hansina married Chris Peterson, of Valley City, N. D., and they have a daughter, Eva Maria. The Hegland brothers raise pure bred Durham cattle, Poland-China hogs and good draft horses, keeping ten on the home farm for general use. In 1910 they sold a pair of draft horses for \$475.00. During the active years of his life the subject of this sketch owned stock in the Fountain Creamery and also in the Lanesboro Lumber Company, and he was one of the first residents of Root Prairie to introduce steam threshing machines, while his sons, who now operate the farm, owned the first automobile in the vicinity. Mr. Hegland's later years were crowned with success which his younger days earned by toil and earnest endeavor, and he was held in high esteem by his fellow men. He died December 11, 1893, and his wife died August 2, 1911.

**Wilson H. Culbertson** brought his family from Pennsylvania in 1849, and settled in Scott county, Iowa, where he was employed seven years as a farmer. In June, 1856, he moved the family to Minnesota, and took a claim near St. Charles in Olmsted county. He traded this claim for fourteen yoke of oxen, which he disposed of, and then went to work for the Transit Railroad Company. Subsequently, he purchased 160 acres in Winona county, where he farmed the remainder of his life, dying December 16, 1878, at the age of fifty-four. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Ann Duncan, died March 25, 1877.

**Nathaniel D. Miller**, successful and energetic farmer, residing in the township of Pilot Mound, was born in Missouri in 1863, and as an infant was taken to Wisconsin by his parents, Herman and Elizabeth (Darrow) Miller. He was given a good education and while a youth was employed as a woodsman in a lumber camp. At the age of twenty he came to Minnesota and was employed as a farm hand several seasons. In 1886 he rented a farm in Pilot Mound and there carried on agricultural pursuits for some time.

In 1894 he purchased 40 acres, which he operated, while he lived on rented property, which he later bought and now owns, the farm comprising 120 acres located on sections 7 and 8. Mr. Miller raises Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs, Shropshire sheep and Norman horses. Politically, he is affiliated with the Republican party and has been elected to serve in some of the prominent public offices in his township, among which are: Chairman of the school board for some time, clerk of school board for nine years and pathmaster for ten successive terms. January 5, 1888, he was united in marriage with Martha, daughter of James and Ann (Norton) Cocker. To this union have been born three children: Esther E., Clarence S., and Vera Elsie.

**A. J. Beachy** was born in Alleghany county, Maryland, April 12, 1847, son of Abraham and Annie (Zabaugh) Beachy, and lived the usual life of the Maryland boys of his period. In 1864 he came to Minnesota and worked three years in Bristol and three years in Carimona. Then he and John Sheets operated a farm in York township for five years. Later he returned to Bristol and worked one summer for his father-in-law, John Shook. Then he purchased the farm in section 6, Harmony township, where for more than thirty-five years he made his home. He worked to make his place one of the best in that locality and that he succeeded is well attested by the neighbors of today. He was united in marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of John Shook, a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania. To this union have been born three children. Kate M. is now Mrs. William Burmaster and is the mother of two children. Estelle, who is deceased, married Mr. Byers and was the mother of one child, Fay. Lucretia married Ernest Burmaster. On March 13, 1911, Mr. Beachey left the home farm, which he had rented, and moved to Harmony village, where he is now living a somewhat retired life, though he keeps a fine large garden which affords him some exercise and a great deal of pleasure in his leisure hours.

**Albert Culbertson**, mayor of Whalan, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1847, son of Wilson H. and Mary Ann (Duncan) Culbertson. He spent his youth in Iowa and Minnesota, and in the spring of 1878 moved to Mower county and purchased a quarter section on which he started farming. Owing to the failure of crops, he left this farm and went to Winona county. December 31, 1878, he came to Whalan, where he has since resided. On May 8, 1884, Mr. Culbertson bought the farm which he has since operated with success and good management. This farm comprises 220 acres, has good buildings, and



MR. AND MRS. A. CULBERTSON AND SON

is well equipped with modern implements, and stocked with a goodly number of pure blooded Red Polled and Durham cattle, as well as horses, about fifteen of which are kept for farm purposes. For forty years Mr. Culbertson operated a threshing machine in Winona and Fillmore counties. He has now disposed of this business. He is now proprietor of the Culbertson House in Whalan, owns a farm implement store, and he has kept charge of his farm. In political convictions, he is an independent Democrat, voting for principle rather than for party. He has served as chairman of the board of supervisors for three years, constable for four years, and school director for fifteen years. He has been mayor of Whalan for over fifteen years. Mr. Culbertson has numerous business interests, and is president of the Whalan Mutual Telephone Company. Socially, he is affiliated with the Whalan A. O. U. W. May 8, 1872, he married Jennie Canfield, a native of Jackson county, Iowa. She died July 8, 1912. An adopted son, R. W., lives with his father and attends the Toland Business College at LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

**Hans E. Nordness**, progressive farmer and citizen of Carrolton township, was born at Sogn, Norway, in June, 1852. His father, Erick T., came to America in 1873 and now resides in Fillmore county at the advanced age of ninety-two years. Hans E. attended school in his native land and there grew to manhood. When twenty years of age, he left his old home, crossed the Atlantic and upon his arrival in America, proceeded west to Minnesota and located in Lanesboro, where he was employed at various occupations for a period of four years. He next worked on a mill dam a year and then, in 1877, settled down to general farming. He bought property on section 3, Holt township, where he engaged in farming industries for fourteen years, after which he sold his farm and came to Carrolton, where he and his father now make their home with a nephew, who is in charge of the farm. Mr. Nordness was one of a large family, having eight brothers and sisters, all of whom have passed to the Great Beyond. Edward O. Nelson, the nephew, married Eda J. Slindee of Adams, Minn., and to them have been born three children: Sadie, Gertrude and Earl.

**Iver Abrahamson (Rustad)**, deceased, was born in Hadeland, Norway, one of the six children of Abraham and Karen Rustad, who came to America in 1853 and located in Clayton county, Iowa, where they engaged in farming. In 1856, they came to Minnesota and settled in Amherst township, this county, where the father passed away in 1860. Iver received his education in

the schools of Norway and America. About 1856 he purchased 240 acres of railroad land in sections 29, 30 and 31, Holt township. He was married in August, 1868, to Ingebor Baalerud, who was born in Norway in 1843 and came to this country with her mother in 1861. He died August 9, 1869, leaving his widow and an infant son, Peter.

**Ole E. Nordness** was born in 1847 at Sogn, Norway. In 1868 he came to America. After spending one year in Wisconsin, he came to Minnesota, where he homesteaded land in section 24 in Carrolton township. He lived on this farm until his death in the year 1904.

**Erick T. Nordness** was born on June 20, 1820, at Sogn, Norway. He was the second of eight brothers and sisters, all except one of whom came to America. He was married to Soneva Vangen in 1846 and to this union were born nine children. He came to America and direct to Lanesboro in the year 1873, making his home with his oldest son, Ole E. Nordness, who had arrived and homesteaded in Carrolton township four years before. His wife died in 1908 at the age of eighty-five years.

**Peter Abrahamson**, progressive farmer residing on section 30, Holt township, was born on the farm which he now owns, May 6, 1869, son of Iver Abrahamson Rustad and Ingebor Baalerud, his wife. He received the rudiments of his education in the district schools in Holt township and later attended the public school in Lanesboro, spending two winters in Wallace's Business College, La Crosse. After completing his studies, he went back to the old home on the farm and there resided until twenty-three years of age in the employ of his mother. Then he purchased the home farm of 240 acres, now known as the "Sunny Slope Stock Farm," and has since made many improvements thereon, having erected a brick residence, a substantial barn and good outbuildings. Gradually, as opportunity has afforded, Mr. Abrahamson has added to his original possessions, now owning 445 acres of farm land and thirteen acres of timber. He is particularly interested in stock raising and makes a specialty of pure bred Percheron and coach horses, Aberdeen Angus cattle and Poland-China hogs. Politically, he is member of the Republican party. In March, 1906, he was elected to serve as clerk of Holt township, which office he still holds. He has been clerk of school district 33 for nearly sixteen years, and has also served as one of its directors. He attends the Lutheran church and for several terms has served the organization as trustee. On January 1, 1892, Karen Mathilda Sethre became his wife, and their mar-



PETER ABRAHAMSON, RESIDENCE

riage has resulted in the birth of four children: Ingwald Abrahamson, born January 2, 1893; Arnold J. Abrahamson, born February 26, 1895; Paul Walter, born January 20, 1900; and Elsie Ingebor Maria, born July 25, 1903. Mrs. Karen Mathilde (Sethre) Abrahamson was born in Holt township, this county, on April 18, 1869, daughter of Johan and Maria (Holter) Sethre, natives of Eidsvold and Nannestad, Norway. Johan Sethre came to America in 1854 and located on a farm in Holt township. He married Maria Holter in 1868 and to them were born two children: Karen Mathilde and Helda, who is now Mrs. Albert Overgard. Mr. Sethre died March 1, 1897, and his widow now resides with her son, Hans P., on the home farm, at the advanced age of seventy-six years.

John O. Lanskov, a prominent native citizen of Pilot Mound township, was born September 8, 1869. His parents, Simon and Marn (Jacobson) Landskov, were both born in Norway, where they were educated and married. In 1861 they crossed the Atlantic and came to America, after which they proceeded west and settled in this county, renting land for five years, then purchasing the farm on which they now reside in section 31, Pilot Mound. Eighty-seven acres of this farm are located in Pilot Mound and 80 acres in Chatfield, and the place has been brought to its present value by unceasing attention. John O., subject of this sketch, acquired a common school education and assisted with the duties of the home farm. He later went to Tracy, where he was employed nine months as clerk in a hardware store. In 1910, he returned to Fillmore county and bought from his father eighty-seven acres of land, upon which he carried on general farming for a period of time, afterwards renting to Erickson Brothers. Mr. Lanskov now makes a specialty of raising bees. He has served as clerk of town board for three years and he is treasurer of the Fountain Hose Company, the Fountain and Pilot Mound Telephone Company, and the Root Prairie church. He was married June 27, 1900, to Maria Nordley, daughter of Narve and Christie (Trulson) Nordley, and they have four children: Neldred, Mabel, Juella and Orie Guyron.

Mons Anderson was born in Hadeland, Norway, September 24, 1846, oldest child of Anders and Inger (Butingsrud) Berven, the former a native of Hadeland and the latter of Aadalen, Norway. Coming to America in 1861, the subject of this sketch secured employment at various occupations and his industrious habits won the esteem of each of his employers. He married Ingebor Baalerud, widow of Iver Abrahamson (Rustad), after which he took charge of her farm in sections 29 and 30. For



a number of years he worked this place on shares, purchasing the estate in 1876. In 1891, he bought 80 acres in section 29, 23 acres of the Abrahamson farm, and later another 80 acres. He has engaged in agricultural pursuits and makes his property more valuable each succeeding year. Politically, Mr. Anderson is a member of the Republican party and is well suited to serve in the various public offices of the township. He has been clerk of school district 33 twenty-five years; supervisor of the township for many years and township assessor for three years. He is a member of the Lutheran church, has been secretary of this organization for a long time and treasurer for more than twenty years. To Mr. Anderson and his wife eight children were born, of whom six are now living: Augusta, now Mrs. Tessum of Thief River Falls, Minn.; Anna, now Mrs. Ole Peterson, residing with her father on the home farm; Antone, of Tacoma, Wash.; Iver, of Roundup, Mont.; Ida, the wife of Magnus Gjerdrum, of Grass Range, Mont.; and Oscar, also of Grass Range, Mont. The mother of these children died April 29, 1903. Mr. Anderson, as noted, was the youngest of three children. Ingebor, the oldest was born January 1, 1831, grew to womanhood in Norway, married Ander Bollerus, and came to America in 1861, locating in Holt township, this county. Thron is now in Norway.

**Richard Wadden**, deceased, one of the early settlers in this county, was born in Ireland May 15, 1844, and when a boy came to America with his parents, who settled at Hazel Green, Wis., for a time, and later came to this county and homesteaded land on section 3, Carrolton township, where the father passed away. Richard, during the years of his boyhood, went to school and worked on the home farm. When twenty-one years of age, he bought a farm and erected a dwelling, which was later burned, after which he built the residence, which now stands on the farm. For many years he carried on agricultural pursuits with marked success. His ability to serve in public offices was recognized by his fellow citizens, who elected him treasurer of the school board and chairman of the board of supervisors. July 11, 1865, Mr. Wadden married Catherine Shaughnessy, of Fountain, and to this marriage were born seven children: John is a farmer in Carrolton; Margaret F. is now Mrs. Martin Barther, has three children, and resides in Madison, South Dakota; Mary E. married Martin Horihen; Nicholas married Anna, daughter of John Horihen and has one child; Mary C. He operates the home farm and he and his family live with his mother. Catherine is a teacher in Lenora; Anna is the wife of James O'Hara, and has two children; Gertrude is teaching at Pilot Mound. On March 15, 1901, Mr. Wadden entered into rest. Mrs. Catherine (Shaughnessy)



CHRIST A. DUNHAM, RESIDENCE

Wadden was a daughter of Patrick and Margaret (Enright) Shaughnessy, who came to America from Ireland in 1847. For ten years after their arrival in the United States, these worthy people lived in McHenry county, Illinois, where the father operated a farm. During the month of May, 1857, the family started in covered wagons for Minnesota, and after arriving in Fillmore county, settled on a claim in Fountain township. There the father built a rude shack, broke and cultivated the land, and became a prosperous farmer. While living in the shack, the mother was killed by a tree, which was uprooted during a severe storm and thrown on the shack. Mr. Shaughnessy died October 16, 1887.

**Ole T. Brokken**, an energetic and progressive young farmer of Preston township, was born in Harmony township, January 13, 1871, son of Tallak and Aase Brokken, of honored memory. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm, and attended the district school of his neighborhood. Upon attaining his majority he bought a farm of 120 acres to which he has since devoted his attention. The farm is well cultivated and cared for, and Mr. Brokken has erected the dwelling house and the outbuildings, the buildings all being comfortable and substantial. Mr. Brokken is highly regarded by all, he keeps well abreast of the times, and is regarded as one of the desirable citizens of the county. His good management and industry are convincing evidence that he will walk the paths of success so worthily trod by his father. The subject of this sketch married Oline Olson, and they have a well-ordered, well-kept home.

**Christ A. Dunham**, whose farm lies on the town line between Holt and Amherst, first saw the light of day in Eidsvold, Norway, December 22, 1841, son of Andrew and Margaret Dunham. He attended school in his native land and fitted himself for the responsibilities of life. When 28 years of age, he decided to seek his fortune in America. In company with his step-mother, Bertha Maria Lee, he crossed the ocean to the United States and came at once to this county. For seven years he worked for various farmers in and about Highland Prairie, after which he bought eighty acres and started farming for himself. He put up a log house and in that rude dwelling lived for several years, after which he moved into his new home. He carries on general farming, stock raising and dairying. As opportunity has made possible, he has purchased additional property, now owning eighty-five acres of farm land and thirty acres of timber land. February 19, 1875, he married Annie, daughter of John and Margaret (Knudson) Gullickson. To this marriage seven children have

been born: Margaret, John, Malvin, Clara, Julia, Alpha, and Malvin. Margaret is dead. Her husband, Gustaf Dunham, and their son live in North Dakota. John A. lives in North Dakota. Malvin (first) is dead. Clara married Ed Nelson and has four children: Nels, Caroline, Della, and Ella. Julia is the wife of Anton Tohan and has two children: Clifford and Mabel. Alpha lives in North Dakota. Malvin (second) is at home.

**John Bostrack**, a prominent citizen of Holt township, who has for many years been identified with responsible town offices, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, August 28, 1865, son of John and Mary K. (Peterson) Bostrack, natives of Norway, who came to America about 1856 and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father resides at the present time at the age of eighty years, the mother died in 1902 at the age of seventy-six years. The subject of this sketch attended school as a boy and fitted himself for the useful life of a farmer. In 1885 he left home and went to Kossuth county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm on which he conducted agricultural industries for a period of eight years, after which he came to Minnesota and bought the farm of 120 acres of well cultivated land in section 9, Holt township, where he has since continued to reside. He carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of tobacco culture, raising from ten to fourteen acres each year. On November 24, 1886, Mr. Bostrack married Christina Steenson and to them have been born eight children: John is a mail carrier of Whalan, Minn.; Martha, Mary, Betsy, Christina, Ole, Margaret, and Lydia are all at home. The family attends the Lutheran church of which Mr. Bostrack has served as treasurer for many years. Mrs. Christina (Steenson) Bostrack was born in Bergen, Norway, in 1857, daughter of Ole and Brata (Thompson) Steenson, who came to this country in 1862 and located on a farm in sections 3 and 4, Holt township, where they reside at the present time. John Bostrack has been chairman of his township since 1908, and was town assessor continuously from 1891 until 1902, with the exception of one year. He was secretary of the Whalan Telephone Company for six years. In all these positions he has done good service, and given general satisfaction.

**Ellef O. Peterson**, deceased, one of the prominent citizens of Holt township, was born in Wisconsin near Madison, on July 21, 1855, son of Ole and Carrie (Austin) Peterson, who in 1861 brought him to Fillmore county and located in Amherst township, where he grew to manhood, attending school and working on the home farm. When twenty-six years of age he took charge of some farm land in Holt township owned by his father-in-law, Erick

Swenson. On this property he made many improvements, constructed necessary buildings, and in 1910 erected the fine barn, which is one of the largest in the township. Of industrious habits and possessed with good business judgment, Mr. Peterson became popular in the community and held many public offices, among which were supervisor of the township, road overseer and treasurer of the district school. Politically, he affiliated with the Republican party. On February 27, 1883, he married Betsey Olson, who was born in Sogen, Norway, on November 24, 1861, daughter of Ole and Ingebor (Mallum) Olson. This marriage was blessed with eleven children, of whom the following are now living: Clara, at home; Oscar, resident of Carrolton; Edward and Lewis, at home; Alpha, now Mrs. Alphonse Skalet, of Amherst; Ida, Henry, Emma, Arthur, and William at home; and Elmer Walter (deceased). The members of the family are communicants of the Lutheran church, in which, for many years, Mr. Peterson held the office of deacon. On July 5, 1911, Mr. Peterson passed away, and his death was a great loss, not alone to his immediate family, but also to the entire community.

Betsey (Olson) Peterson was born in Norway, November 24, 1861, and came with her mother, Ingebor (Mallum) Olson, to America during the spring of 1868, her father having died in Norway. The family came west to Minnesota and settled in Amherst township, where Mrs. Ingebor Olson was married to Erick Swenson. They carried on farming for a time in Amherst township, later moving to Holt township, where Erick Swenson bought 160 acres in section 33, and passed the remainder of his days, his death occurring September 3, 1895. His widow, now eighty years old, resides with her daughter, Betsey, the subject of this biography, who grew to womanhood on her step-father's farm, was educated in the district school near home, and after her marriage to Ellef Peterson February 27, 1883, continued to make the old home her abiding place.

Ole Peterson and Carrie (Austin) Peterson, his wife, early settlers, came to this country from Norway in 1850, and for some time made their home near Madison, Wisconsin, after which in 1861, they came to Fillmore county and secured 160 acres of land in Amherst township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of ten children, six of whom are now alive: Betsey, the wife of T. Gilbertson, of Dawson, Minn.; Peter, of Kerinan, N. D.; Annie, now Mrs. L. H. Peterson, of Amherst; John, of Carrolton; Martin, of Crosby, N. D., and Andrew, of Columbus, N. D. Mr. Peterson died on March 11, 1910, Mrs. Peterson's death having occurred about thirty years previous to that date.

**Bert N. Shattuck**, who now resides on the old Shattuck homestead at Highland in Holt township, was born September 28, 1866, son of Andrew and Julia A. (Graves) Shattuck. When a boy he attended the district school near home and assisted his father with the work on the farm. From 1877 until 1896, he was engaged in the well drilling business in partnership with his brother, George W. Disposing of his interest to his brother in the latter year, he purchased ninety-seven acres of the old home farm including the homestead in section 35, Holt township. He also purchased eighteen acres of timber land in Preble township on which is located the noted Shattuck Spring and picnic grounds. He now engages in general diversified farming, and makes a specialty of dairying, being among the first to introduce the Holstein-Friesian blooded cattle in this locality. He and his brother, George W., built the first cement-block silos in their part of the county. Mr. Shattuck's standing as an industrious and energetic man, is evidenced by the well-cared for farm and substantial and commodious home and outbuildings. On June 26, 1895, he was united in marriage to Della Pickett, born in Carimona, October 10, 1866, daughter of Joseph and Martha (Sayles) Pickett, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. Mrs. Shattuck received a thorough education fitting herself for a teacher; and for several years followed her profession in the district schools of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Shattuck two children have come to gladden their home: Doris, born July 15, 1898, and Nathaniel, born January 1, 1901, the latter being the first child born in the county on the first day of a new century. The Shattucks are esteemed members and liberal supporters of the Friends church at Highland. Mr. Shattuck's political views are those endorsed by the Prohibition party. Both he and his wife are strong temperance workers and advocates of the good cause.

**Joseph Pickett** was one of the very earliest settlers of Carimona. He, his brothers, Edwin and William, and his father, David, came to Carimona in the fall of 1852 from Indiana. He and his brother Edwin built a sawmill in the spring of 1854, 20 by 60 feet, and set it in operation. This mill was operated in an intermittent way until 1874, when it was demolished. Mr. Pickett was identified with many of the early enterprises in Carimona and immediate vicinity, and became one of the representative and substantial citizens of Fillmore county. His wife, who was Martha Sayles, proved a most faithful helpmate, a true wife and loving mother. Their home was blessed with six children: Metta, now Mrs. Emmet Kahlbaugh; Edwin, of Granger, this



B. N. SHATTUCK AND FAMILY

county; Lavinia, now Mrs. O. A. Kirkelie, of Ocean Park, Calif.; Ira, of Austin, Minn.; Della E., now Mrs. B. N. Shattuck, of Highland, this county; and Daniel, of Wykoff, this county. Joseph Pickett died June 22, 1883. His wife died June 6, 1911.

Reverend Arne E. Boyum, who for fifty years preached the gospel in southern Minnesota, was born at Bergen Stift Sogen, Norway, April 7, 1833, son of Elling Erickson and Annie (Sevathson) Boyum, was confirmed in 1848, and succeeded by boyish perseverance and application in securing a common school education. He came to America in 1853, and lived three years in Dane county, Wisconsin, farming, studying, preaching, and teaching. In 1856 he came to this part of the country, began his labors as a home missionary of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran faith, and took a claim in Rushford. Six years later he moved to a farm which he purchased in Arendahl. Here he made his home, his family looking after the farm interests during his absence on missionary tours. He served as pastor of a number of churches, organized many congregations, and became a decided factor for good in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. For many years he was president of the Hauge Synod, of the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church. He retired from the active ministry in 1896, but even after that worked as a home missionary. Rev. Boyum now devotes his time to the farm, which comprises 507 acres located in sections 10, 14, and 15, the family residence being on section 10. When this land was first purchased, it was wild prairie and timber, and its present fertile and well-tilled condition is due to the excellent management and untiring industry of its owner. In political opinions, Rev. Boyum is a staunch Republican, but the many duties of his home and church have prevented his occupying public office. He is a stockholder in the local creamery and elevator. On July 25, 1859, Anna Iverson became his wife. Their marriage was blessed with twelve children: Erik, Iver, Elling, Bertha, Ole, John, Erik M., Andreas, Arne G., Sevath M., Anne G., and Peter A. Anne G. is now the wife of A. Anderson, of Goodhue county, Minnesota. Erik, Bertha, Ole, John, and Arne G. are deceased.

Ole E. Boyum, a representative citizen, has served as member of the legislature, county commissioner, justice of the peace, town clerk, road overseer, and in other offices, discharging the various duties of those positions with credit to himself and with satisfaction to the people who have elected him. He is a firm believer in the principles endorsed by the Republican party, to which he has ever given his support. Mr. Boyum is of Norwegian birth and ancestry, having first seen the light of day



at Sogen, on February 10, 1846, son of Elling Erickson and Annie (Sevathson) Boyum. In 1856, in company with his father, he came to America and settled first in Dane county, Wisconsin, remaining there one year, after which they came to Minnesota and made their home in Rushford township. Five years later, the subject of this biography located in Arendahl township, where he resides at the present time. Acquiring a part of his education in the schools of his native land, he completed his studies in Fillmore county, and laid the foundation for his present success as a farmer by attending faithfully to the many tasks required of him at home. He now owns  $537\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land, in sections 2, 10, 11, and 14, on which he engages in general farming and dairying. He is one of the directors of the local elevator. On June 10, 1866, Annie Johnson became his wife and their marriage has resulted in following children: Erik A. (deceased), Maria J., Anna Julia, Ellen A., Andreas, Edward, Martin, Benjamin, Alfred George and Oscar A. (deceased). Maria is now the wife of Rev. A. E. Hanson and lives in Canada; Anna Julia became the wife of C. J. Benston and resides in Arendahl township; Ellen A. is now Mrs. A. O. Moen, of Peterson, Minn. The members of the family have been communicants of the Norwegian Lutheran church many years and have ever been liberal contributors to its support.

**Peter P. Highum** was born at Sogen, Norway, in Nov. 18, 1849, son of Peter and Guri (Truls) Highum, who brought him to America in 1854, and settled in Columbia county, Wisconsin, where they remained for six years, then removing to Minnesota, by means of a horse and ox team, acquiring land in Arendahl township, which had to be grubbed and broken to prepare it for cultivation. The subject of this sketch worked for his father until 1873, during which year he purchased his present farm, comprising 240 acres in section 12. He has made many improvements on this land, erected good buildings, cultivated the soil and carefully attended to raising valuable crops. As time and opportunity have afforded he has added to his holdings. His present prosperity is the result of years of hard work. When he first settled in the county, water had to be hauled a distance of three miles, and this was especially trying during the long, cold, winter months. Mr. Highum now carries on general farming and stock raising, preferring Shorthorn cattle for dairy purposes. He affiliates with the Republican party and attends the Norwegian Lutheran church. On February 9, 1876, he married Anna Helene, daughter of Ellend and Berthe (Fretem) Brekke. To this marriage have been born: Edward A., Bertha Julia, Thea S., Alfred P., Oscar, Bertha M., Henry B., George A., Phillip E., A. Eugene,



MR. AND MRS. J. H. HALE  
GEORGE H. HALE  
ELIZABETH E. HALE—CLARA HALE ROWELL

Laura, and Alvin. Bertha Julia is now the wife of Anton Ness and Thea married Anton Steen.

Mr. Highum has served in many public offices and has given general satisfaction to those who have elected him. He has been member of the school board sixteen years, member of the town board six years, and road overseer a considerable period. He is a director in the Rushford elevator and a stockholder in the Arendahl creamery and is vitally interested in various other business enterprises.

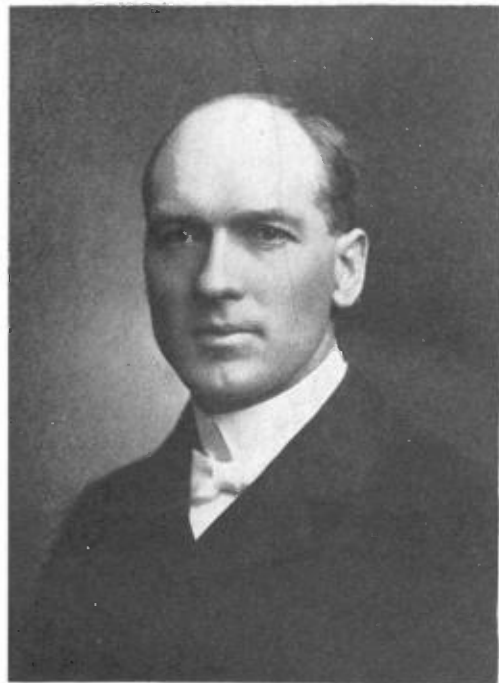
**John H. Hale** was a striking example of what may be achieved by hard work, faithful adherence to duty, unswerving integrity, and an ability to foresee the future and to grasp opportunities at a favorable time. He is of good old Granite state stock, born in New Hampshire, Aug. 25, 1828. He there spent his boyhood, received a good old-fashioned common school education, and in 1857 came to Minnesota, settling in section 17, Sumner township, this county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until about 1890, when he turned the management of his broad acres over to his sons, Charles W. and George H., and retired from active life. He, however, continued to live on the home farm the greater part of the time until his death, Aug. 14, 1907. He was married, Aug. 27, 1855, to Ann Judson Willey, born in New Hampshire, about twenty-five miles south of the White Mountains, Feb. 27, 1837. Mr. and Mrs. Hale were the parents of five children: Elizabeth E., Clara A., Charles W., Ella and George H. Elizabeth E. lives at home. Clara A. is now Mrs. John Rowell, of Hinsdale, Mass., and has two children, John and Helen. Charles W. married Martha Engle and they are the proud parents of three children, John, Edward and Robert. Ella is dead. George H. is on the home farm, unmarried. Mrs. Hale is spending her declining years on the home farm, surrounded by the love and care of her children. She was a worthy helpmeet to Mr. Hale in all his life undertakings, a faithful and sympathetic wife, and a loving and understanding mother. She made the Hale home a place where hospitality was dispensed with liberal hand; and the latch string is ever out to friends. Her influence has ever been for good, and her worth is written on the hearts of many.

**John H. Hale** was a man worthily respected in the community in which he made his home. Not caring for public life, he was nevertheless interested in all good works, and his advice was ever esteemed by his many friends. He lived close to his family and loved his home, and the story of his worth and character will be told for many generations to come. It is such men as he who have given to Minnesota the high reputation which it so deservedly enjoys.

**Charles W. Hale** and **George H. Hale**, known as the Hale Brothers, extensive farmers, stockraisers, and corn growers, of Sumner township, were born on the farm where they still reside, in section 17, sons of **John H. and Ann Judson (Willey) Hale**, the worthy pioneers. They were given a good education, and took up farming as their life work. They now own one of the largest farms in Fillmore county, all of which is conducted directly under their management. On this place are raised annually, from seven to eight hundred acres of corn, about three hundred acres of oats, and considerable hay. The produce is not sold in the open market but is used in feeding the beef cattle, hogs, sheep and horses. In addition to the tilled land, the farm contains about seven hundred acres of pasture. Some of the men employed are married, live on different parts of the farm, and assist in boarding employes during the busy seasons. The Hales have recently erected an excellent modern dwelling, which, with the other buildings, makes one of the beautiful farm places of the county. The Hale brothers have a large circle of friends and acquaintances and are noted for their industry and perseverance, being progressive agriculturists, and model and desirable citizens in every respect. **Charles W.** is noted throughout the Northwest as a lecturer of merit, having appeared at many Farmers' Institutes.

**Hans P. Hoff** and his wife, **Marn Lysen**, were born in Norway, there attended school and were married. About 1868 these worthy people decided to seek their fortune in America, accordingly sailed across the ocean, and after their arrival in the United States, proceeded west to Minnesota and located in Norway township, Fillmore county, where they rented a farm for five years. In 1873 they moved to the Red River Valley, in northwestern Minnesota, where they carried on general farming for several years, after which they came back to Fillmore county and purchased 240 acres in Arendahl township. Mr. Hoff improved this land, erected comfortable buildings, and there lived until summoned by death, May 19, 1912, at the extreme age of eighty-five years. Mrs. Hoff died July 20, 1895. They were the parents of six children, of whom two are now living. Hans lives in Holt. Isabel is now Mrs. Serum, of Rushford township. Paul H., Erick H., Gilbert H. and Gueber are deceased.

**Hans Hoff**, a representative farmer of Holt township, first saw the light of day at Hadeland, Norway, on December 23, 1858, his parents being **Hans P. and Marn (Lysen) Hoff**, who brought him to Fillmore county at the age of ten years. He attended district school and worked with his father on the home farm until twenty-six years of age. In 1887 he bought 140 acres in Amherst



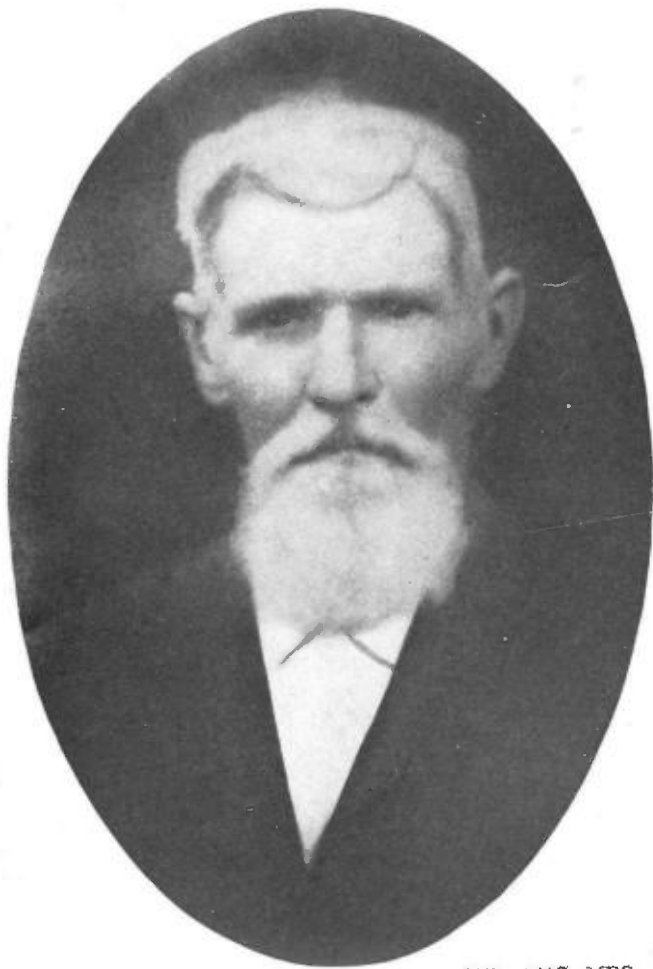
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES W. HALE AND CHILDREN

township. Seven years later he disposed of this property and purchased 258½ acres in sections 14, 15 and 16, Holt township, where he now lives. In connection with his general farming interests, he raises Norman horses, Hereford cattle and Chester White hogs. His well-kept place is known as the "Diamond Oak Farm," and its prosperous condition is due to skillful management of its owner. Mr. Hoff is a Republican, politically; has been supervisor of the township for a year and director of the school board for nine years. He was for many years trustee of the Lutheran church, of which he and his family are members. On March 3, 1887, Mr. Hoff married Julia Rustad, who was born September 15, 1862, in Amherst, daughter of Ole and Marth (Baalerud) Rustad, natives of Hadeland, Norway. This marriage has resulted in six children: Hilda Malvina, born August 21, 1888, now wife of Ole Myer, of Holt township; Oscar Martin, born June 19, 1891; Henry Eugene, born December 28, 1893; Ida Geoline, born November 18, 1898; Paul Archibald, born August 21, 1902, and Myrtle Elnora Minerva, born September 3, 1906. Mrs. Hoff has rendered valuable service as treasurer of the Ladies' Aid society of the Lutheran church for the past eight years.

**John Smaby**, retired farmer and miller living in Rushford township, was born in Totan, Norway, January 22, 1846, son of Peder and Parnela (Johnson) Smaby, who came to America in 1878. The subject of this biography was educated in Norway and when twenty-four years of age, he decided to seek his fortune in America, subsequently crossing the ocean to this country. For some time after his arrival in Minnesota, he was employed in a flour mill, having learned that trade in Norway. In 1885, he began agricultural pursuits on his farm of 115 acres in section 29, Rushford township, and continued this occupation until 1907, when he retired from active labors and now rents the farm on shares. Mr. Smaby is a stockholder in the Peterson creamery and elevator and has other business interests. He is a member of the United Lutheran church. During the past, he has been elected to serve in many of the prominent public offices in his township, having been a member of the town board for twelve years, on the school board for eighteen years and road overseer for a period of time. Mr. Smaby mastered the English language by himself, and overcoming obstacles has earned for himself the respect and esteem of his fellowmen. On February 13, 1871, he married Julia Viste, who was born in Norway, and this marriage has resulted in the following: Peter (deceased), Gena Mary, Nels J., Caroline Petra, Willie (deceased), Adolph (deceased). Gena is now the wife of S. R. Severson. Mrs. Julia (Viste) Smaby died August 27, 1906.

**Nels J. Smaby**, a prominent citizen of Peterson, has served in many public offices, doing good service as member and president of the village council of Peterson, as member of the school board, and as a member of the Rushford village (township) board. He is recognized as a useful citizen of sterling qualities. He was born in Peterson in 1874, son of John and Julia (Viste) Smaby, and in that village grew to manhood. He began his education in the common schools and completed it with a course at Humboldt College, Humboldt, Iowa. In 1893, Mr. Smaby accepted a position with the Moen Casket Company, in whose employ he remained for three years. In 1896 he engaged in the lumber business, in which he has since continued. Mr. Smaby is secretary of the Farmers' Elevator Company, and gives his best efforts for the interests of that concern. He is Sunday School superintendent of the United Lutheran church and a prominent member of that organization. He was married September 12, 1903, to Tine Asleson, daughter of Asle Asleson Buan and Anna Uhlen, and to them have been born Willie Alton, Geneva Alida, Arthur Jonathan, and Norris Talbert.

**Nels J. Amble**, who has long been prominently associated in political affairs in Peterson, is a son of Johannes L. and Seneva (Peterson) Amble, natives of Sogen, Norway, who came to America in 1866, first locating in Arendahl township, where they bought eighty acres of wild land, which they broke and cultivated. In 1869 they disposed of this farm and rented a place from S. E. Boyum in Arendahl township. In 1874 they moved to Rushford, where they purchased 120 acres three years later. Nels J., the subject of this biography, was born in 1867, and spent the early years of his life in Arendahl township, there attending school and assisting with the general farm work. He completed his education with a course in Stoughton Business College at Stoughton, Wis., after which he came to Rushford and engaged in the lumber business for a period of one year. In 1891 he entered the grain business, in which he remained for seven years and at the end of that time he was elected to serve as postmaster at Peterson. After serving in this capacity for two years, Mr. Amble resigned and went into real estate business, which he conducts at the present time, also paying considerable attention to fire insurance. Among the various public offices in which he has given excellent service and general satisfaction are: President of Peterson, clerk of Peterson school district for eighteen years, village recorder of Rushford for nine years, census enumerator in 1900. Mr. Amble was one of the organizers of the village of Peterson and it is due to his efforts that the village became incorporated. Among his many busi-



MR. AND MRS. INGELBRIT HOLNESS



ness interests, he is a vice-president of the Peterson State Bank and stockholder in the Peterson creamery and elevator, of which he was one of the organizers. In his political opinions he is a Republican and his religious faith is that set forth in the teachings of the Hauge Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church.

**John A. Bremmer** was born in Arendahl township October 2, 1882, son of Augund A. and Christie (Sviggum) Bremmer; the former was a native of Sogen, Norway, and the latter of Fillmore county. The father, after his arrival in this country, came west to Minnesota and bought a home and farm, broke and grubbed the land, cultivated it and carried on general farming. He was a member of the town and school board and also served as road overseer. He was a stockholder in the Peterson elevator. He died October 30, 1911. John A. Bremmer was educated in the common schools near home and supplemented his studies with a course in the Southern Minnesota Normal College of Austin. For some time after leaving school, he assisted his father on the farm, but in 1909 rented his mother's farm of 230 acres, which he operates on shares. He is now engaged in diversified farming and raises Durham cattle, Poland-China hogs, and good horses for general farm work. In political views, Mr. Bremmer is a staunch Republican, but he has not been a seeker of public office. He owns shares in the Arendahl creamery and has other business interests. On March 20, 1907, he married Elizabeth Arsvold, who was born in 1881, daughter of Thomas P. and Anna (Boyum) Arsvold, the former of whom was born in Norway and the latter in Wisconsin. To Mr. and Mrs. Bremmer two children have been born, Adolph C. and Truman A. Mrs. Bremmer is one of a family of eleven children: Peter T., Elizabeth, Henry, Bertina, Pauline, Adolph T., Joseph, Jacob, Benjamin, Emma, and Alma. Bertina married Thomas G. Saunders. Mr. Bremmer has six sisters and two brothers, as follows: Martha, now Mrs. Henry O. Johnson; Anna B.; Karina (deceased); Ida C.; Andrew A.; Alma C. (deceased); Clarence A.; and Alma Karina.

**Ingebret Hermanson (Olness)**, a prosperous farmer residing in Arendahl township, was born at Sogen, Norway, January 29, 1832, son of Herman Hermanson and Brita (Dvergedal) Olness, natives of Norway, the former coming to America in 1861. Ingebret, the son, attended school in the home country and taught himself the English language. He crossed the ocean to America in 1856 and upon his arrival settled in Wisconsin, where he farmed for one year. Coming to Minnesota in 1857, he located in Arendahl township, where he was employed by farmers until

1861, when he bought 300 acres, eighty of which are located in section 36, Winona county, and the remainder in sections 4, 16, and 6, Arendahl township. On this farm, Mr. Olness breeds pure blooded Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs, and farm horses, and raises corn, barley, oats, and wheat, and also timothy seed. He owns a Shorthorn-Durham sire. The present fertile acres are in striking contrast to the "grub" land he originally purchased, and the present improvements are a contrast to conditions of the early days, when water had to be carried from a distance of six miles. The industry and hard work of the owner have resulted in his present prosperity. He is a staunch Republican, but not an office seeker. On July 10, 1864, Mr. Olness married Gertrude Olson Eggum, daughter of Ole Lasseson and Gertrude (Hanson) Eggum, and the following children have been born: Herman, who married Mary Millene; Anna; Ole Johannes, who married Thea Millene; Lewis Henry, who married Cora Bersrud; Bettha Karina, who died in 1895; Mary Josephine, the wife of Martin Boyum; Martha Helena; Elizabeth Serena; Christina Julia, who married Otto Sandrope; Peter Edward, Carl Wilhelm, and Bennie Martin. The members of the family are communicants of the Lutheran church. The mother died December 5, 1910.

**Duncan McConochie**, born at Ontario, Canada, December 15, 1830, and Jean Ferguson, his wife, were natives of the province of Ontario, Canada, who came to the United States in 1856, and settled in Arendahl township, Fillmore county, where they bought a farm of wild land. Mr. McConochie broke and developed his property, made improvements from time to time, and as the years passed his efforts were crowned with success and he grew prosperous. In 1877 he left the farm in Arendahl and moved to Pilot Mound, where he now owns 370 acres in sections 11, 12, 26, and 1. During the first years of his residence here, water had to be hauled from two to three miles, but now he owns a fine well which is 332 feet deep and whose supply is inexhaustible. Mr. McConochie engages in general farming and raises pure bred Shorthorn cattle, owning a valuable sire. He sells about fifteen head of cattle annually and also about fifty hogs. He owns nineteen horses and raises many, which he disposes of to various buyers. The subject of this sketch is a Republican in political opinions and he has served on town and school board in both Arendahl and Pilot Mound townships. He is a respected member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. McConochie have been blessed with four children: Barbara is the wife of John McCallum; Hugh died on March 10, 1889; Katie married William Cocker; and Alexander married Mary Gunderson. Mrs. Jean (Ferguson) McConochie died May 27, 1912.

**Alexander McConochie**, son of Duncan and Jean (Ferguson) McConochie, was born in Arendahl township in 1876. He spent his boyhood days on the home farm and attended the district school. Mr. McConochie now carries on general farming and stock raising in Pilot Mound township and has for some years been prominently identified with the public offices of that township. He is now chairman of the town, having served on the board six years. For two terms he has been treasurer of the school board, and for several years served as pathmaster. In all the various offices which he has held, he has given satisfaction and won the esteem of his townspeople. Mr. McConochie married Mary Gunderson and they are parents of Kathryn and Hugh.

**Thore Johnson** and Ingeborg (Sagood) Johnson, his wife, came to the United States from Norway in 1865 and settled in Holt township. The following year they bought eighty acres in section 14, which they broke and improved, erecting a suitable dwelling and necessary outbuildings. As opportunity afforded they added to their holdings, eventually becoming owners of 210 acres in section 15. Here the father carried on general farming for the rest of his life, his death occurring October 31, 1892; his widow resides with their son, Isaac. They were parents of seven children: Thore, of Holt township; Isabel, who married Erick Johnson, and died in 1909; Rachel, now Mrs. Anton Erickson, of Holt township; Anne, the wife of E. Edwardson; Ellen, now Mrs. J. A. Jenson, of Norway township; Lena, married to Ludvig Glenna; and Isaac, now operating the old home farm, married to Bertha Anderson.

**Thore T. Johnson**, county commissioner, was born in Holt township, December 28, 1865, son of Thore and Ingeborg (Sagood) Johnson. He was educated in the school in district 32 and made his home with his parents until nineteen years of age, after which he bought eighty acres in section 10, Holt township. There he erected a comfortable dwelling and good barns and made other improvements. As time has passed and his hard work and energy have resulted in prosperity, he has added to his broad acres and now is one of the most extensive land owners in Fillmore county. His property comprises about 1,100 acres, located in sections 11, 14, 24, 25, 26, and 36, and he lives on section 25, in a substantial home, which is evidence of his success in his life's chosen occupation. On February 16, 1884, Mr. Johnson married Randi Olson, daughter of Asle Olson, an early settler of Holt township. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson nine children have been born: Eda, Anton, and Peter are dead; Rudolph married Lilly Skalet and works the home farm with his father; Oscar, Ludvig,

Adolph, Ruby, and Peter are at home. Aside from serving as county commissioner from the first district since January 1, 1905, Mr. Johnson has also occupied other prominent public positions reflecting credit to himself and giving general satisfaction to the people in the county. For six years he served as chairman of the board of supervisors of Holt township, and was for many years justice of the peace, school clerk and notary public. Politically, he is a staunch Republican. Aside from public offices which Mr. Johnson has occupied, he is treasurer of the Highland Lutheran church as well as chairman of the board of trustees of that body and he has long been a liberal contributor to its support.

**William Edwin Lillie**, a well known citizen of Jordan, was born in this township September 15, 1870, son of Palmer and Martha (Bushnell) Lillie. He attended the district school near his home and worked for his father during the years of his boyhood, completing his education when eighteen years of age. Subsequently, he started in life for himself by purchasing eighty acres in section 22, where he made his home for eight years, later buying eighty acres on section twenty-five, where he now resides. Here, Mr. Lillie carries on general farming, stock raising, and dairying, keeping Short-horn and Jersey cattle and disposing of cream to the Chatfield creamery. He also raises Shropshire sheep and pure bred Jersey Red hogs. Aside from the farm in Jordan township, the subject of this sketch owns a good house and lot in Chatfield. In politics, he is affiliated with the Republican party, but has never sought office, though he has been elected to serve as pathmaster for four years. January 22, 1892, Sabina Dutcher, daughter of Hiram Dutcher, became the wife of Mr. Lillie and they are parents of Lela Maude and Lloyd Martin. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Antone Larson**, a highly respected farmer of York township, was born in Christiania, Norway, July 18, 1846. In 1872, he came to America, making the trip in a sail boat and being on the water for eight and a half weeks. After arriving in this country, Mr. Larson came west to Minnesota, locating first in Carimona township, where he secured employment on a farm for four years. Being an industrious and ambitious young man, the subject of this sketch decided to start for himself, and, accordingly, rented some land, and farmed for one year, after which he bought eighty acres in section 6, York township. Here he has since made his home and carried on general farming and dairying. He has made many improvements on his farm, erected buildings, broken

the land and rendered it more valuable. He keeps about thirty-five head of Shorthorn cattle and disposes of dairy products to the Spring Valley Creamery, of which organization he is a stockholder. Formerly, Mr. Larson kept from twenty-three to thirty hogs and eight or ten work horses, but he has disposed of most of these and at present lives practically a retired life, hiring his farm work done. He is a staunch Republican and has held various offices in the township, having been supervisor for eight years, also road overseer for a similar period. On October 28, 1871, he married Andrea Erickson, who has proven a most estimable helpmeet. They are members of the Bloomfield Lutheran church.

**Hiram Burke** was born in New York on November 22, 1830, son of Hiram and Liza (Cleveland) Burke, who made their home in New York until 1831, when they moved to Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Hiram, Jr., acquired a common school education in Ohio and worked on the home farm until twenty-three years of age. In 1854, he came west to Minnesota and settled in Chatfield village, which was then a town with but two houses. He took a claim in Olmsted county, but after spending a year on it, returned to Chatfield and for several years was employed in Haven's store. Mr. Burke eventually bought eighty acres on section 34, Jordan township, where he resides at the present time. Here he made many necessary improvements and erected a substantial log house and carried on general farming for many years. In April, 1864, he was united in marriage with Mary Prouty, of Chatfield. To them four children have been born: Egbert, now living in Olmsted county; George H. (deceased); Lola, the wife of George Ratkiff, of Canyon City, Colo.; and W. S., now at home. Mr. Burke has long been a member of the Republican party.

**Ole Hendrickson**, a progressive farmer of York, was born in Norway, in 1850, son of Peter and Mary Hendrickson. He grew to manhood in his native country, there attended school and fitted himself for the useful life of a farmer. When he became twenty-three years of age, he decided to seek his fortune in the United States, and subsequently crossed the Atlantic, landing at Quebec. From there, he proceeded west to Minnesota, locating in this county, where he secured employment with various farmers in Beaver township and worked out for eight years. At the end of this period, he rented some land and began to farm for himself, continuing to rent for ten years, after which he purchased 160 acres in York, where he is now carrying on agricultural pursuits. He engages in general diversified farming, stock raising,

and dairying, and disposes of his dairy products to the Chester Creamery. Politically, Mr. Hendrickson is a Republican, but the many duties of his farm life have prevented his seeking public office. In 1890, he married Mary Torgleson and to them have been born nine children: Minnie is the wife of Halver Olson; John is a resident of Ostrander; James is at home; Henry is deceased; Otto lives in Forestville; Julius, Annie, Lena, and Ole are at home. The family attends the Lutheran church at Bloomfield.

**J. B. Palmer**, the genial proprietor of the Commercial House in Ostrander, was born in Spafford, New York, April 22, 1837, son of Nathan and Submit (Smith) Palmer. He was educated in the common schools of Wisconsin and assisted his father with the farm work until he was twenty-two years of age. At this period, he rented land and started for himself. Two years later he came to Minnesota and purchased 100 acres in Carimona township, where he farmed for three years, later farming in other parts of the township. In 1873, Mr. Palmer went to Walla Walla, Wash., making the trip overland. There he was employed in a mill for a period of time, after which he returned to his farm in this county, where he conducted agricultural industries for five years. He then moved to Spring Valley, and a year later to Wykoff, where he assumed charge of the Wykoff House, which he successfully conducted for three years. Later, he again farmed in Carimona for two years, after which he sold to his son, moved north and spent a year. Retiring from active life, he moved to Carimona village and made his home with a daughter for a time, but not being content, he again went onto the farm and later to Ostrander, where he has since conducted the Commercial House. Mr. Palmer is a Democrat, but has not sought public office. On September 28, 1858, he married Caroline A. Bassett, of this county, and they are the parents of: Cassius Herbert, of Montana; Elva V., a farmer near Preston; Virginia, in Ostrander with the father; Fanny, now Mrs. Bernard Valer, of California. The wife and mother died in 1882.

**Henry Smith**, a respected farmer residing in Sumner township, was born in England on August 27, 1838, son of George Smith. His education was acquired in the common schools of his native country, where he grew to manhood. In 1862, Mr. Smith crossed the ocean to America and with him came his father. They settled first near St. Charles, where the subject of this sketch was employed by various farmers and also working at his trade of shoemaker. In 1870, Mr. Smith came to Sumner township and bought eighty acres of land, where he still resides,

now owning 120 acres in section 23. Here, he has made many improvements having built the comfortable home and good barns and other outbuildings and carefully cultivated the soil, making his, one of the productive farms in the community. He raises Shorthorn cattle, hogs, and horses. During the year of 1870, he married Betsy Andreson, of Pilot Mound and to them have been born: George, of Jordan; Arthur, working the home farm; Mary, the wife of Chris Hermanson, of Pilot Mound; Edith, now Mrs. Charles James. Mr. Smith is a Republican in political views, but has never sought public office.

**Nathan Palmer**, one of the pioneers of Fillmore county, was born in New York, where he spent his early life, attended school and was married. In 1845, he moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he remained a year, after which he moved to Columbia county in the same state. In 1854, Mr. Palmer came to Minnesota and settled in Carimona township in section 11, where he erected a log house, broke and developed the land and for many years engaged in general farming. In 1868, he moved to Missouri, where he later passed away. He married Submit Smith, of New York.

**George H. Warner**, native resident and representative farmer of Spring Valley, was born July 14, 1870, son of George and Ellen Warner. During his boyhood he attended the schools of Spring Valley, and when seventeen years of age, left school and devoted his time to working for his father on the home farm, later farming on his own responsibility. In 1891, Mr. Warner went south and was engaged in conservation work for many years, spending three years in Louisiana in the rice belt. After remaining fifteen years in the south, he returned to his old home in Minnesota and entered into partnership with his brother, Z. W., in the dairy and ice cream business, continuing until May, 1911, when he disposed of his interest and has since given his attention to general farming. He owns eighty-three acres in section 31, where he has erected a new house and barn and made many improvements. Mr. Warner is a Republican of the progressive type, and he is a member of the M. W. A. On March 27, 1907, he married Lily Whiting, a daughter of George Whiting.

**James Erving Norton**, of Jordan township, is a native of the Empire state, having been born in Tompkins county on March 18, 1847, son of William and Catherine (Kimple) Norton, also natives of New York, where the former died. In 1856, James, came to Minnesota with his mother. They settled in Fillmore

township, where the mother took a homestead on which they lived until the subject of this sketch was able to start in life for himself. He was educated in the schools of New York and later in Fillmore village. At the age of sixteen years, Mr. Norton went to Iowa, there being employed by a farmer, with whom he remained for three years, after which he returned to Minnesota. For several years after his return to Fillmore county, he rented land and worked at general farming. During 1900, he bought eighty acres in section 33, which he now rents, still making his home there. He is a stonemason by trade and has followed this occupation at intervals for the past thirty-five years, working during the summer months. He does bridge contracting and general stone work and plastering. It is worthy of note that he was one of the first stonemasons in Stewartville. Politically, Mr. Norton is a Republican, but he has never sought public office. On April 27, 1873, Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Southerland, a pioneer of Fillmore county, and also an inventor, became the wife of Mr. Norton. Their marriage has been blessed with Lily, Effie, Maude, Philip, Fred, Harry, Millard, Archie, Catheryn, Gladys, Dewey, and Otto.

Len Loudon was born in York township, where he now resides, February 27, 1868, son of Orrin and Martha (Louden), natives of New York. He was educated in the common schools near his home and worked for his father on the farm. He now owns 120 acres of land and also rents eighty acres, and carries on general diversified farming and dairying. He keeps about twenty-five head of Durham cows for dairy purposes and disposes of their cream to the Chester Creamery, of which he is a stockholder. He raises also Chester White hogs. Politically, Mr. Loudon affiliates with the Republican party, and has been clerk of school district 86 for three years. He is respected as an industrious, energetic citizen, who has always been willing to assist in all movements toward the betterment of his township. On October 3, 1889, he married Emma Link, and to them has been born a son, Oscar, who is now attending school.

Orrin Loudon, one of the pioneers in this county, was a native of New York, where he spent the early years of his life, attended school, grew to manhood, and was married. After his marriage, he moved to Illinois. In 1857, he came to Minnesota, pre-empted 160 acres in section 30, in York township, and there established his home. He broke the wild land, planted crops, erected buildings, and gradually made many improvements, enduring the many hardships incident to the life of the pioneers in this state. During the Civil war, Mr. Loudon enlisted in Company I, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served



for the preservation of the Union until the struggle was ended, after which he returned to his home in this county. To himself and wife, Martha (Ferguson) Loudon, were born three children: Seth, of Chester, Iowa; Mary, of Riceville; and Len, on the old farm. The wife and mother died in 1882, and for some time after her death, Mr. Loudon lived with his son, Len. He now resides in Austin. He has always upheld the principles endorsed by the Republican party, but never sought public office.

**J. O. Jameson**, of Bloomfield township, was born in Norway, October 1, 1852, son of Ole and Anna Jameson, who brought him to the United States in 1853, settled in this county, pre-empted 120 acres and carried on general farming for the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1895, and the mother in 1901. J. O. was educated in the schools of Bloomfield township, and after he became fifteen years, left his studies and continued to work for his father on the farm until he became of age. Then for several years, Mr. Jameson rented land and followed general farming. In 1893, he moved to Ostrander, where he has operated a dray for several years, and then began drawing cream for the Ostrander Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, in which he is a stockholder. He is a member of the Republican party, but has never been an office seeker. On March 9, 1873, Mr. Jameson married Martha Johnson and to them have been born: Alfred, who is a mail carrier, living in Ostrander; Emma, the wife of Roy Hughes, of North Dakota; Hjilmer, living at home; and seven children deceased. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**Samuel Sampson** was born in York township November 27, 1864, son of Ole and Anna Sampson. When a boy he attended school in the old log school house and after completing his education, he remained on the home farm until twenty-six years old. In 1890, he went to Illinois, where he lived for several years, later returning to his old home in Minnesota. He now rents the home farm and resides near-by. On March 3, 1893, he married Martha Belle Halverson and they are the parents of three children: Clara, Charles, and Mabel. Mr. Sampson is a member of the Lutheran church and votes with the Democratic party.

**Ole Sampson**, formerly a prosperous farmer of York, now deceased, was born in Norway, March 4, 1826. In 1857, he came to this country and pre-empted 160 acres of timber and prairie land in section 22, York township. Mr. Sampson cultivated the land, erected buildings and established his home and here reared his family. His wife Annie was born in Norway, October 12,

1826, and they became the parents of five children: Hattie, the wife of Mark McGuire, of Lime Springs; Jane, now Mrs. Nelson; Samuel, of York; Emma, deceased; and Annie, who married Andrew Olson. Mr. Sampson's long and useful life came to a close on March 18, 1899, and his widow survived him until February 5, 1909.

**Nels Ellingsen**, a progressive farmer of York township, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, November 5, 1856, son of John and Anna Ellingsen. When he was two years of age, he came with his parents to this county and located on the land which he occupies at the present time. He spent the years of his boyhood attending school and working for his father on the home farm and has had charge of the old homestead since the father's death. He owns 160 acres of land and carries on general farming and dairying, disposing of his dairy products to the Chester Creamery, in which he is one of the stockholders. He keeps about twenty head of Shorthorn cattle and about the same number of Chester White hogs, also eight good work horses. Mr. Ellingsen's political opinions are those of an independent thinker, and while he has been elected to the office of constable for eight years and pathmaster for some time, he has never sought public office. He attends the Lutheran church and assists in the upkeep of that house of worship.

**Thomas Goodwinson** was born in Norway in June, 1864. When a small boy, he came to the United States with his parents and settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, remaining there for two years, after which the family moved to Minnesota and settled in Bloomfield township, this county. The father bought forty acres in section 28, and carried on farming until his death, which occurred in 1895. The mother still resides with Thomas, the subject of this sketch, who was educated in the common schools of the county and has since carried on agricultural industries. Mr. Goodwinson owns a well cultivated farm which comprises eighty acres. He keeps a larger portion of it under the plow, and improves his property each year, making it more productive and valuable. Mr. Goodwinson has two brothers, Austin, who lives at Chester and Goodwin, of Beaver. He votes independently and attends the Lutheran church. His industrious habits and excellent qualities have won for him the respect of his fellowmen.

**John Ellingsen**, deceased, was born in Norway and there spent the early years of his life. In 1852, he left the land of his birth and came to America, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin,



HOLT TOWNSHIP LANDMARK

where he engaged in farming. His wife Anna came to this country in 1854 and they were married in 1856. To them were born four children: Nels, of York township; Eunice, now Mrs. Ole K. Olson; Ella, the wife of Louis E. Bestland, North Dakota; and Anna Johanna, now Mrs. George Restland. In 1858, the subject of this biography came to Minnesota and settled on section 22, York township, where he bought eighty acres from Norman Whitman and eighty acres from H. I. Wells. This land was largely in timber and scrub oak, and Mr. Ellingsen at once set about clearing and breaking it, preparing it for the planting of crops. For many years, he carried on farming, gradually improved his property, and with his good wife endured many hardships. He passed away on May 31, 1905, and the wife and mother now resides with her son, Nels, on the old home farm at the extreme old age of ninety years.

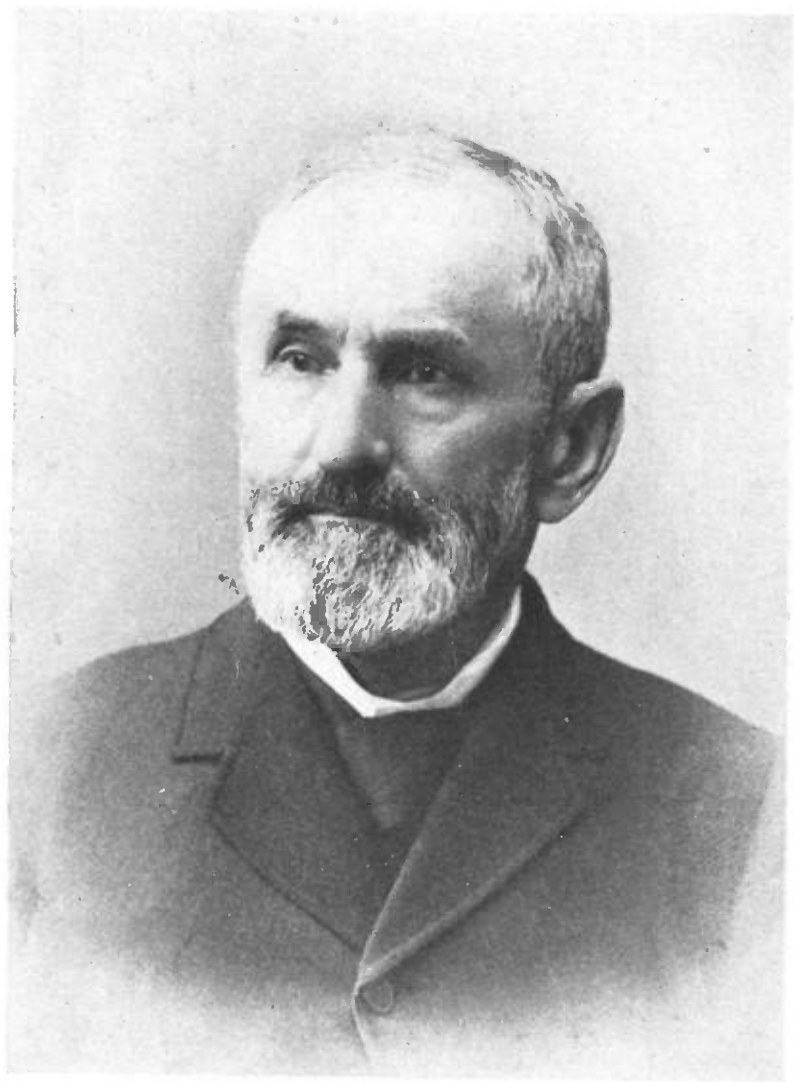
**Ole G. Vikse** was born in Norway in July, 1864, grew up in the land of his birth and there received his schooling. In 1884, he sailed for America, and located in Fillmore county. For three years he worked out and then rented land three years. With his savings from these six years of hard labor, he bought 120 acres in sections 6 and 7, Beaver township. To this he has been able to add from time to time till he now has 280 acres on which he has erected large and substantial buildings. Much of this land he has grubbed and broken with his own hands and it is a matter of just pride with him that he has accomplished so much by his own efforts. He now keeps near 100 sheep, about fifty hogs and fifty or more Shorthorn cattle. Some years ago Mr. Vikse had the misfortune to have his barn destroyed by fire. He turned disaster into success, however, by replacing it with a much larger structure and one which more adequately meets the growing needs of his farm. In politics, he is of independent mind but favors the prohibition movement. He has been school director in district 102 for three years. He is a member of the Lutheran church of Ostrander. On June 27, 1894, he married Emma Johnson, a resident of Harmony. This union has been blessed with six children: Arthur, Cora, Edmund, May, Gladys, and Esther, all of whom are at home.

**Abraham I. Jensen** was born in Neenah, Wisconsin, November 4, 1862, and came to Holt township with his parents when very young. He attended the country schools and was reared on a farm. When nineteen years of age, he went to North Dakota for the summer, and when twenty-one years of age, went there and bought a tree claim of 160 acres, on which he planted considerable timber. He sold the claim in 1885, and returned to Holt township. In 1886, he went to Houston county and rented a

farm for a year. Then he went to Norway township, this county, and farmed three years. In 1890, he purchased seventy acres in Holt township. This place he has increased until he now owns 129½ acres in section 27, Holt township. Here he carries on general farming. Mr. Jensen has been trustee of Highland United Norwegian Lutheran church, with which body he has associated for many years. He is a Republican in politics, has served on the school board of which he is now clerk, and has been pathmaster for many years. He was married February 14, 1885, to Annie Johnson, daughter of Henry and Johannah (Olson) Johnson, and of the twelve children born to this union, eight are living: Mary, Hilda, Ida, Stina, Myra, Aletta, Henry, and Clifford.

**L. T. Tollefson**, Lanesboro's popular mayor, was born in Newburg township, October 24, 1859, son of Tollef and Kjestena Tollefson, natives of Norway. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended the William Willford school in Canton, there completing his education. Thus equipped for life with a good education, Mr. Tollefson accepted a position as clerk in the E. L. Tollefson store, in Mabel, where he remained for a number of years. Desiring to engage in business in a larger town where the chances for increasing his trade were greater, he went to Canton and there opened a general merchandise store in partnership with his father. This firm carried on a flourishing business until 1892, during which year L. T. came to Lanesboro, and for six years operated a drug store, later disposing of that business to assume greater responsibilities as a grain and stock dealer, being now owner and manager of the Lanesboro elevator. Mr. Tollefson has long been a staunch adherent to the principles endorsed by the Republican party. He was elected to the office of mayor in 1906, 1907, 1911, and 1912, and is now serving. He is also prominently identified with Lebanon Lodge, No. 102, A. F. & A. M., Root River Lodge, No. 26, I. O. O. F., the M. W. A., and the B. A. Y. He was united in marriage February 26, 1894, to Effie Mason. She proved in every respect, a worthy helpmate, a loving wife and mother, and her death which occurred July 31, 1909, proved a great loss to Mr. Tollefson and the community. They were blessed with one son, Howard L., born December 4, 1904, a child of intellect and natural ability, now a scholar of the third grade.

**John Rein**, proprietor of the "S" Hill Stock Farm, was born in Norway township, this county, June 12, 1876, son of Michael and Margreta (Meldahl) Rein, who came to America in 1854, and settled in Norway township, took a homestead, broke and im-



GEO. R. STEVENS

proved the land, and became substantial residents. Michael Rein helped survey the township in the early days, and took an active part in many public affairs. He also served in the Civil war. He is now deceased and his widow resides in Norway township. John was reared on the home farm, and attended the common schools. When he was twenty years old his father died, and at that time he and his brother Andrew started working the farm on shares. Three years later, the subject of this sketch, went to North Dakota, and homesteaded 160 acres near Rugby, in Pierce county. There he remained for seven years, carrying on general farming. For six of these years he was assessor there. Later he returned to the old homestead in Fillmore county. He now owns 240 acres of good farm land, which he purchased in 1907, situated partly in section 35, Holt township, and partly in section 2, Amherst township. He carries on diversified farming and makes a specialty of stock breeding. Mr. Rein is serving his third term as township treasurer. He is also interested in school affairs, having served on an educational board four years in North Dakota. The subject of this sketch was married March 28, 1900, to Caroline Torgerson, born in Preble township, October 25, 1883. She died in 1908, leaving two children: Ethel Merveth and Norma Mildred. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Rein is president of the Luther League of his church at Highland.

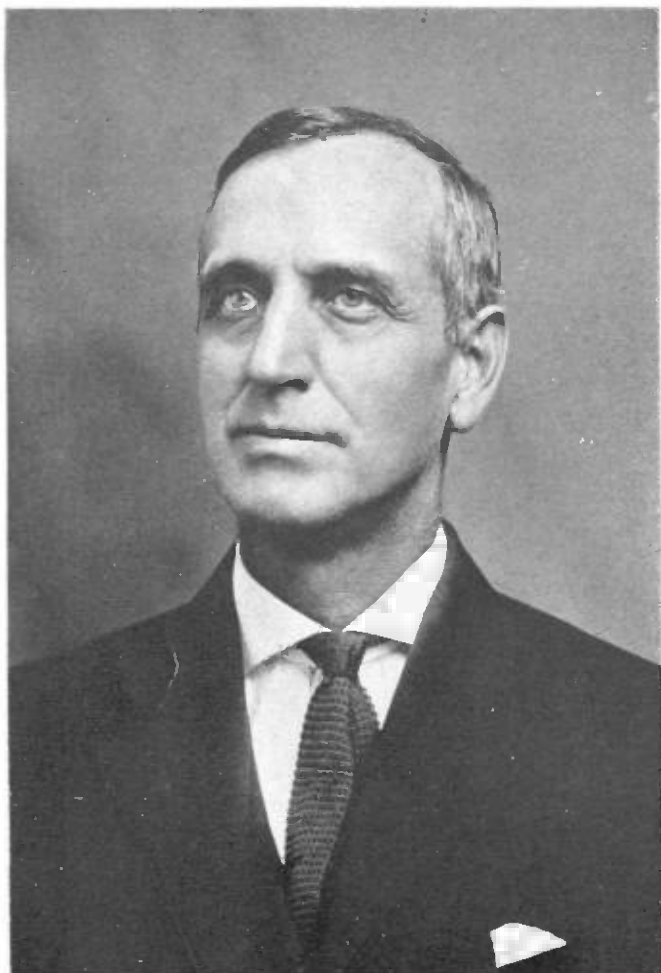
G. G. Stevens, a founder of the city of Rushford, was one of the county's most useful citizens. A true Christian gentleman, he set a high standard of integrity and honor for himself, but was ever gentleness itself with the erring and mistaken; and so great was his desire that others might have the Christian joys that he himself knew, he assisted actively in establishing the first church and Sunday school in the place. A deep student, he owed his broad culture and wide fund of information to keen observation and close reading, rather than to years spent in the halls of learning; and that all within the reach of his influence might have the same advantages, he, with his good wife maintained a library for many years, finally donating books and building to the city. A man of keen insight and business shrewdness, he had faith in the future of the city of Rushford, and as an evidence of this faith he assisted in its platting. A banker of broad views, he was interested in a financial concern for many years, building up a large business, and sharing his prosperity with the people of the community. All in all, he was a noteworthy character, a noble soul, and a true heart. His worth will be blazoned widely, whenever the story of the county is told; and the extent of his influence and good can never be adequately

measured. G. G. Stevens was born at Oswego, New York, December 31, 1818. He came West at an early date, and lived in Michigan City, Indiana, for a time. In the spring of 1856 he left St. Charles, Illinois, and in a short time reached Rushford, where he found that Hiram Walker, S. S. Stebbins and Solomon West had laid out the first lots. He bought Mr. West's quarter section lying south of Rushford avenue, and engaged in farming. In July of that year he brought his wife and little daughter, Mae, to live with him in the hamlet. The hamlet was platted in the fall of 1856, by George G. and Julia E. Stevens, Hiram and Celestia Walker and Sylvester S. and Martha D. Stebbins. The plat was surveyed by Isaac Thompson, acknowledged by Peter Peterson, and recorded by S. B. Murrell. The Stevens property, as before stated, lay south of Rushford avenue. The Walker and Stebbins property lay north of that avenue, divided by Mill street, which was then the principal business street. In the summer of 1859 G. G. Stevens and S. S. Stebbins built a store, which they conducted in partnership until 1861, when Mr. Stevens sold out to Mr. Stebbins and enlisted in the Civil War, serving as quartermaster. About this time he moved with his wife and three children, Mae, Harry P. and Jessie E. to Winona. In the spring of 1864 Mr. Stevens returned to Rushford to prepare for an overland trip to California. He engaged M. J. Desmond to build him a strong wagon, and fit it up suitably for a long journey. Then in company with Dr. Thomas Everts and Henry Weed he started for the West. He returned in the summer of 1866. At that time all the land south of the present public library was a cornfield. The long assured railroad was now approaching the hamlet, and matters began to boom. Mr. Stevens therefore platted an addition, erected some buildings, and succeeded in having the business center shifted to his property. In January, 1867, the railroad came through, and the following year the city was incorporated. In 1872, Mr. Stevens purchased Mr. Easton's interest in the bank of Niles Carpenter and J. C. Easton, founded in 1867, and Mr. Stevens and Mr. Carpenter carried on the business until November, 1901, enjoying the distinction of having one of the most substantial banking houses in southern Minnesota. For the last two years of his life his health began to fail, and during his last winter on earth he was confined to his bed most of the time. He died March 16, 1903. The Rev. Sydney Smith conducted his funeral services at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and the remains were taken to Winona for interment in Woodlawn cemetery. As a memorial, the one who loved him best, erected the beautiful Emmanuel Parish house. Mrs. Harriet R. Colfax Stevens, his wife, was an able and sympathetic helpmate in all his undertakings, and





MRS. GEO. G. STEVENS



GEO. E. KIRKPATRICK

Mr. Stevens continually paid loyal tribute to her helpful and loving influence. Her good works will never be known in full extent, for she is one of those who follow the Scriptural injunction to do good deeds in secret. Probably no other woman in the city has done so much in her time for Sunday school and church work as she. Her whole life has been devoted to this cause, and the memory of her kind deeds will live forever. Scattered over this wide country are to be found hundreds of people who have reason to bless Mrs. Stevens for her work, for at some time or another she has brought good influences into their lives. Mr. Stevens was mayor of Rushford several terms, was a member of the board of education and served in the legislature. He was a member of Rushford Post, No. 97, G. A. R., and of Mystic Star Lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Stevens was married December 26, 1850, to Julia E. Everts, born in Salem, Indiana, October 13, 1830. She died in Winona, Minn., March 16, 1863. To this union were born three children: Mae, Harry P. and Jessie E. Mae was born in St. Charles, Ill., January 25, 1853, and was married at Rushford, Minn., September 5, 1877, to F. G. Parker. They are the parents of seven children: George S., born November 23, 1878; Max E., born July 12, 1882; Eugene, born July 15, 1884; Francis Marion, born September 23, 1886; Jessie, born February 6, 1889; Marry B., born April 11, 1891, and Robert K., born April 18, 1895. Harry P. was born at Rushford, October 21, 1859, and died April 10, 1863. Jessie E. was born September 25, 1861, at Rushford. She was married March 6, 1887, at Prescott, Ariz., to Charles H. Crouse. They have one son, Charles, born May 28, 1888. The subject of this sketch was married the second time, June 4, 1867, at Michigan City, Ind., to Harriet R. Colfax, born at Ashtabula, Ohio, July 4, 1830.

**George E. Kirkpatrick**, postmaster, journalist and man of affairs, was born at Fort Howard, Wis., May 16, 1856, son of George P. and Emeline (Johnson) Kirkpatrick, natives of Delaware. As an infant he was brought to Fillmore county, and his boyhood was spent in the country schools, his education being completed in the Rushford graded school. Then he learned the newspaper business with the "Rushford Star," and followed this line of work here and elsewhere for several years. In 1884 he went to Pepin, Wis., and established the "Pepin Star." A year later he sold out, and returned to Rushford, purchasing the "Rushford Star," which he edited until the fall of 1901, when he sold out on account of other business interests and poor health. Mr. Kirkpatrick has seen considerable public life. He served two years as postmaster of Rushford under Benjamin Harrison's administration, and was again appointed under the first McKinley

administration, serving continuously until the present time. In 1888 and 1889 he was clerk of the lumber committee in the upper house of the Minnesota State Legislature. In 1890 he was appointed to serve as clerk of the congressional house committee on the eleventh census, by Mark H. Dunnell, whom Mr. Kirkpatrick had saved from defeat a few years before by discovering an error in the printing of his name on the ticket. In 1898, in addition to his duties as editor and postmaster, he conceived and executed a plan whereby he cut down the exorbitant telephone charges then prevailing in the county. Associating with himself G. W. Rockwell and E. B. Rowlee under the corporate name of the Phoenix Telephone Company, he installed the first complete telephone system in Fillmore county, connecting every country store and village with exchanges at Lanesboro and Rushford, making terminals at Winona, Minn., and La Crosse, Wis., and establishing a ten-cent rate for service within the county, as against thirty-five cents charged by the Bell Company, which had previously monopolized the business. He has also been a member of the city council, the board of health, and the board of education, a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, and secretary of the library board, a position he still holds. Having the welfare of the city at heart, he has affiliated himself with the Commercial Club. He was for several years secretary of Mystic Star Lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M., and for some time worthy patron of Mystic Star Chapter, No. 93, O. E. S. He was first clerk of Rushford Lodge, No. 35, M. W. A., when it was organized in 1886. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Rushford, and was one of its directors for many years, still serving in that capacity. Mr. Kirkpatrick was united in the bonds of matrimony September 27, 1882, to Frances J. Rivers, born at Hamilton, Ontario, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Rivers. The Kirkpatrick home has been blessed with two children: Clara Lillian, who died in infancy, and Lola E., who resides at home.

George W. Willford, one of the representative, progressive and business farmers of the younger generation, was born on the farm where he now resides in Canton township, April 11, 1876, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Willford, the pioneers. His primary education was received in the district schools and the public school of Canton village. At seventeen years of age, he, like his father, became a boy schoolmaster, teaching in the district schools for a period of three years, after which he entered the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa, and there took both the business and normal courses. He then returned to the home farm in Canton township and since that time has given his attention

to practical and scientific farming. He also engages in stock raising, his cattle being the Polled Durham, which are eligible to record. Mr. Willford is alert to any and all enterprises that tend toward the advancement of agriculture. He is a stockholder in the Prosper Co-operative Creamery, is also a director and stockholder in the State Line Bank at Prosper. In the spring of 1912 he purchased 90 acres in sections 23 and 26, Canton. He is master of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., also a member of the M. W. A. Both Mr. and Mrs. Willford are esteemed members of the B. A. Y., also of Canton Chapter, No. 85, O. E. S. Mr. Willford was united in marriage February 15, 1899, to Edith Beach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Beach. She was born October 24, 1878. To Mr. and Mrs. Willford two children have been born: E. Vera, born November 17, 1899, and Ward Eugene, born March 26, 1907.

**George P. Kirkpatrick**, a ship carpenter by trade, left Delaware in 1855 with his wife and two children, located at Fort Howard, Wis., and there worked at his trade. In the fall of 1856 he brought his family to Fillmore county, located on a farm in Carimona township and there made his home until 1866, when he moved to Houston county. When his declining strength caused him to give up farming, he moved to the city of Rushford, where he died January 1, 1903. His wife died in June, 1906. They were the parents of six children: Maria E., now Mrs. George A. Kogle, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Harry, of Fort Dodge, Iowa; George E., postmaster at Rushford; John T., who died in 1899; Millard F., who died in Nevada in 1905, and Mary, now living in Japan.

**John Vitse** was born in Norway, February 28, 1861, son of Justin and Maria Vitse, who brought their family to America in 1868, and settled in Newburg township, this county, where the father died in 1871. Then the family came to Preble township and bought eighty acres in section 14. John received his education in the common schools and still lives on the home farm, which he owns and rents out.

**Christian Vitse** was born in Norway, March 10, and came to America with his parents, Justin and Maria Vitse. For many years he worked as a carpenter and he has also done considerable contracting. In 1866 he purchased forty acres in section 10, to which he has since added. He is a Republican in politics and has been director of school board number 7 for more than ten years. In 1886 he married Julia Helgersen, a native of Newburg township, where she was born October 3, 1866. This union has

been blessed with ten children, Hannah, Iver, Lina, Charles, Gerhard, Mary, Elmer, Henry, Genea and Archie. The oldest daughter, Hannah, married Harry Larson.

**Olaus Sandsness**, a representative farmer residing in Norway township, was born October 2, 1867, son of Jacob and Katrina Sandsness, natives of Norway and early settlers in this county. He grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the district school. Until the father's death, in 1884, Olaus remained with him, caring for his interests and operating his property. Later purchasing a farm for himself, Mr. Sandsness has since devoted his entire time and attention to cultivating his 108 acres on sections 23-26 and 36. He owns stock in the Rushford Elevator and has other business interests. He is a respected member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, toward the support of which he has ever been a liberal contributor.

**Serven Johnson**, now deceased, was born in 1863 at Staucher, Norway, son of John and Olaver, who brought him to America in 1871 and settled in Rushford, where Serven grew to manhood and learned the carpenters' trade. He followed his chosen occupation for many years and became well known and highly respected throughout the community. On July 14, 1886, he married Bertha Sandsness, daughter of Jacob and Katrina Sandsness and sister of Olaus and Julius Sandsness. To this marriage were born five children: Odin, who died at the age of one year; James Monroe; Harold Joseph; Ole Rudolph; and Benhart Sherman. Mr. Johnson died in 1895. Some time later his widow bought her present farm, which is operated by her son James.

**Knute Holtegaard** was born in Norway June 11, 1864, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Holtegaard, who came to the United States in 1869, and lived in Brownsville, Minn., about two weeks, after which they came to Fillmore county and bought land on section 2, Norway township, in 1870, where they erected the family home and spent the remainder of their days, the father dying in 1892 and the mother in 1907. Knute was educated in the common schools of the county, which he faithfully attended till sixteen years of age, at which time, being large for his age, he was able to do a man's work. He assisted his father on the home farm for five years. When he became of age he married and bought a part of the home farm, where he lived and followed general farming till 1907. At that time he placed his Norway farm in charge of a son, and moved to a new home which he had erected on 280 acres of land in sections 35 and 26, Rushford, which he



MR. AND MRS. JACOB SANDENESS

still owns. This year he is erecting new barns and making other improvements. In addition to his Rushford property he owns 160 acres in Norway township. Formerly he dealt in sheep, keeping a herd of about 200. He now has some good stock, and keeps sufficient horses for farm and family purposes. He is a member of the Lutheran church and attends services at Highland Prairie. In politics he is a Republican and has held several local offices, but has been too much engrossed in business to wish offices which would take too much of his time. He is one of the Rushford board, having served for four years. He has also been school treasurer. He is of a social nature and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In June, 1884, he married Mary Olstad, of Preston township, and to them have been born twelve children, four of whom died in infancy. Oscar, the oldest, is now on the old home place. He married Minda Josephine Benson (Endru). Emma married Henry Oian, of Rushford township. Clara is in Canada. Alfred is a farmer and landholder in Houston county. Carl, George, Mamie, and Cora are all at home, and the two latter attend the local school.

**Julius Sandsness** was born in Norway township, February 28, 1873, son of Jacob and Katrina Sandsness. He spent the years of his boyhood in going to the country school and in making himself useful to his father on the home farm. In 1903 he bought 260 acres in sections 23 and 26 and has since carried on general farming, stockraising and dairying, prospering by good management. He is a member of the Republican party and has served in different public offices in the township, having been a director of the school board and also road overseer for several terms. Among his various business interests he owns shares in the Norway creamery and the Rushford elevator. He attends the Lutheran church. February 22, 1901, Mr. Sandsness married Tilda Howard and to them have been born: Marvel, Joseph, Benhard, Henry, Mabel and Oveda.

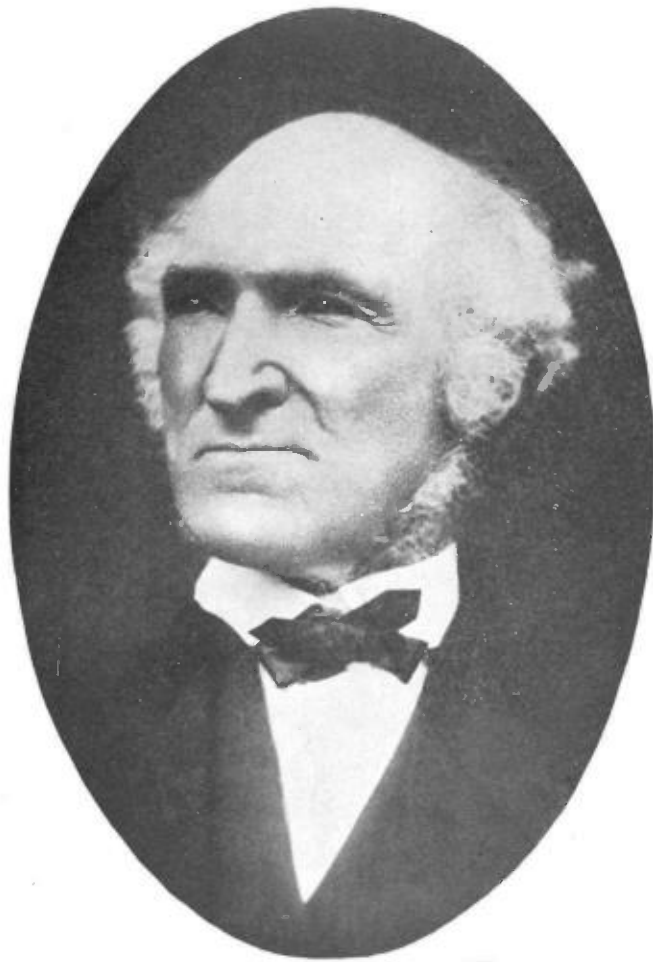
**Christian J. Thompson**, supervisor of Norway township, was born in Norway, February 19, 1862, son of Jens and Mathia (Haagenon) Thompson, who brought him to America at the age of seven years. In the spring of 1883 he went to North Dakota, where he preëmpted a claim of 200 acres. In 1890 he disposed of his 200 acres, after which he returned to the old homestead in Norway township, where he now makes his home. He owns 245 acres on sections 25 and 36 and carries on general farming, being successful in his chosen occupation and becoming more prosperous with each succeeding year. He married Sophia Halvorsen on March 30, 1888, and to them have been born James



Oscar, Martin Rudolph, and Clarence Selmer. The members of the family attend the Norwegian Lutheran church, being highly respected communicants of that body. Mr. Thompson has been elected to his present position as township supervisor for eleven successive years. He has also been pathmaster and a director on the school board. Commercially he is president of the Norway Creamery Association and treasurer of the local telephone company.

**Jens Thompson** was born in Norway, and there married Mathia Haagenon. They came to America and located in this county. In 1870 the father was employed in laying tracks on the railroad west of Fountain, and in that fall he purchased forty acres of railroad land, paying ten dollars an acre. This farm he broke and cultivated. Times were hard and conveniences few, water having to be carried a distance of over a mile for many years. In 1883 he rented this farm and purchased another. In the spring of that year he went to North Dakota, where he took a claim of 160 acres, on which he now resides.

**Felix Meighen** was born in Greene county, Pa., January 13, 1812, a son of William Meighen. William Meighen was a native of Donagal, North Ireland, and after coming to this country, settled first in Maryland, later moving to Greene county, Pennsylvania, where the subject of this sketch was born. Felix grew up and was educated in Greene county and later taught school there. In 1847 he went to Illinois, settled near the city of Galena and engaged in lead mining in company with his brothers, William and Dennis, until 1853. In the latter year, in the month of May, he, together with his friend and brother-in-law, Robert M. Foster, now of Austin, Minn., came to this county and where Forestville village now stands staked claims on sections 12 and 13 of that township. Together they erected a log house and store building about 80 rods north of the present home of Thomas J. Meighen. Mr. Meighen then returned to Illinois and continued in the mining business and also served as deputy sheriff of Joe Davies county until 1855. In May, 1855, he returned to Forestville with his family and became actively engaged in the merchandise business and farming in partnership with Robert M. Foster, under the firm name of Foster & Meighen. The store being opened and operated by Mr. Foster, of the firm, from and after October 1, 1853, was the first store in Fillmore county. This enterprise was patronized by the farmers and village people and grew to a thriving business. The partnership was continued until 1868, when Mr. Foster withdrew from the business and Mr. Meighen continued alone, with the assistance



MR. AND MRS. FELIX MEIGHEN



"THE ELM"  
FELIX MEIGHEN HOMESTEAD

of his sons, T. J. and Joseph P. Felix Meighen was a great fancier of well bred stock and did much to encourage the farmers building up their herds. He bought and sold many acres of land and carried on extensive farming operations. He was a close student of public questions and always interested in politics, but as one who only desired good government, and had no ambition to hold office. He was, however, prevailed upon to accept the office of postmaster at Forestville, which he held for over twenty years. Felix Meighen had a remarkably acute mind. He could arrive at a decision in an intricate case, or could pass upon the character of a person instantly, and such decision or estimate of a person never needed revision. He was a philosopher and extremely practical. He was able to put much meaning in a few words; some epigrams coined by him are yet frequently quoted by the old settlers. He had a splendid legal mind and would have made a great judge. In 1845 he married Eliza Jane Foster, of Steubenville, Ohio, and to them were born eight children: Susan, Catherine, Joseph P., Maria C., Thomas J., Eliza Jane, Martha E., and William, who died in infancy. Mrs. Meighen was the best type of pioneer mother. She was the good Samaritan, the physician and nurse and comforter when sickness or death visited any family in the neighborhood, and was generous, kind and loved by all who knew her. She died July 23, 1894, and was survived by the subject of this sketch less than two years, he dying January 21, 1896. They are buried beside their daughters Susan and Catherine in the Catholic cemetery beside the church of St. Ligouri in Carimona township.

**Carl J. Johnson**, organizer and leader of the Peterson Concert Band, was also instrumental in gathering talent for this band, and in erecting the beautiful band stand which is now an ornament to the village of Peterson. Mr. Johnson is a native of this county, born in Peterson in 1882. His parents, John Walebye and Julia (Hoff) Johnson, were born in Norway, and there grew up and were married. They came to America in 1875, first locating in Wisconsin, and two years later moving to Peterson, where the father worked at his trade as carpenter. Carl J. was educated in the common schools and after reaching young manhood, entered the mercantile business. In 1898 he went to Carimona, this county, and became manager of S. C. Thompson's general store. In this position he gave excellent satisfaction for two years, when he resigned and returned to his home town. A year later he opened for business Peterson's first exclusive restaurant and confectionery, which he operated for two years with success. Mr. Johnson is at present employed by T. A. Jackson, in the mercantile business, which position he has held the past nine

years. Mr. Johnson is recorder for the village of Peterson, and has held this office since the village was organized. He is also treasurer of the board of education, having occupied this office for five years. On June 10, 1903, Mr. Johnson married Edith M. King, of Carimona, this county. She is the daughter of Osmer L. and Lucetta (Spies) King and was formerly a music teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are parents of Marion Ruth, Doris Abigal, Glen Osmer and Ray Carlton.

Thomas J. Meighen has long been considered one of Fillmore county's foremost citizens and his interests and activities extend far beyond the county's boundaries to the affairs of the state and nation. From his early manhood it has almost been a passion with him to serve the interests of, and to have a standing with, the common people instead of with the privileged few. Early in life he was an active worker in the Greenback party. When the movement for the establishment of the Farmers' Alliance was started he at once became one of the leaders and was made the first vice president of the Minnesota organization of that party, when Ignatius Donnelly was president. He was chairman of the First Minnesota state committee of the people's party, being elected to the chairmanship by the favor of such men as Ignatius Donnelly, Sidney M. Owen, Gen. James H. Baker, William W. Irwin and others, with whom he served. As chairman of the state committee he had much to do with the organization of the People's party in Minnesota, and was rewarded by seeing his friend, Mr. Owen, receive over 84,000 votes for governor; enough People's party men elected to hold the balance of power in the state legislature; and Halder E. Boen sent to Congress from the Ninth district. Mr. Meighen was national committeeman in 1896, 1900 and 1908. He was a member of the State Board of Equalization, appointed by Governor Lind in 1899 to 1900, and by Governor Johnson for his entire term, altogether about seven years. While on this board the record he made for justice to all the varied interests in the state is too well and favorably known to need repetition here. In 1900 he was the candidate of the Democratic and People's parties for lieutenant governor. In 1902 he was the People's party candidate for governor. In this year Van Sant was elected. In 1894 he was a candidate for Congress on the People's party ticket. His devotion to the cause he believes to be that of the common people, when rewards in the form of high office could have been secured by allying himself with other parties, is as remarkable as it is characteristic of the man. Though of independent mind and a natural leader, he is unassuming and democratic in his bearing and easily approached by any who need his counsel or assistance. Though his political activities



*Mr and Mrs Thomas J. Meighan*

have been great and almost continuous, he has not neglected his many business interests. His home farm of 1200 acres in Forestville is under his immediate supervision. He owns much land in this county, as well as other tracts in southern Minnesota and elsewhere. He is also the president of the First National Bank of Preston, which position he has held since the organization of the bank, ten years ago. The subject of this sketch was born in the village of Forestville, this county, August 21, 1855, son of Felix and Eliza Jane (Foster) Meighen. He here grew up and attended the first public school of the county. At thirteen years of age he left school and assisted his father in the general mercantile business at Forestville. When fifteen years of age he was sent to Chicago to buy goods for the store and made periodical trips to that city for the same purpose for many years. It was while on one of these trips that he witnessed the great Chicago fire. After 1878 he assumed full charge of the mercantile business and managed to a great extent his father's estate. On September 6, 1897, he was united in marriage with Mary Broderick, who was born in England of Irish parentage, but who had lived in Pennsylvania and Minnesota most of her life. To this union have been born three children, Margaret, Thomas J. Jr. and Joseph Felix, all of whom are in St. Paul at school. For educational advantages the family spends a part of each year in St. Paul; but the old homestead at Forestville is still the family home, of which they are justly proud.

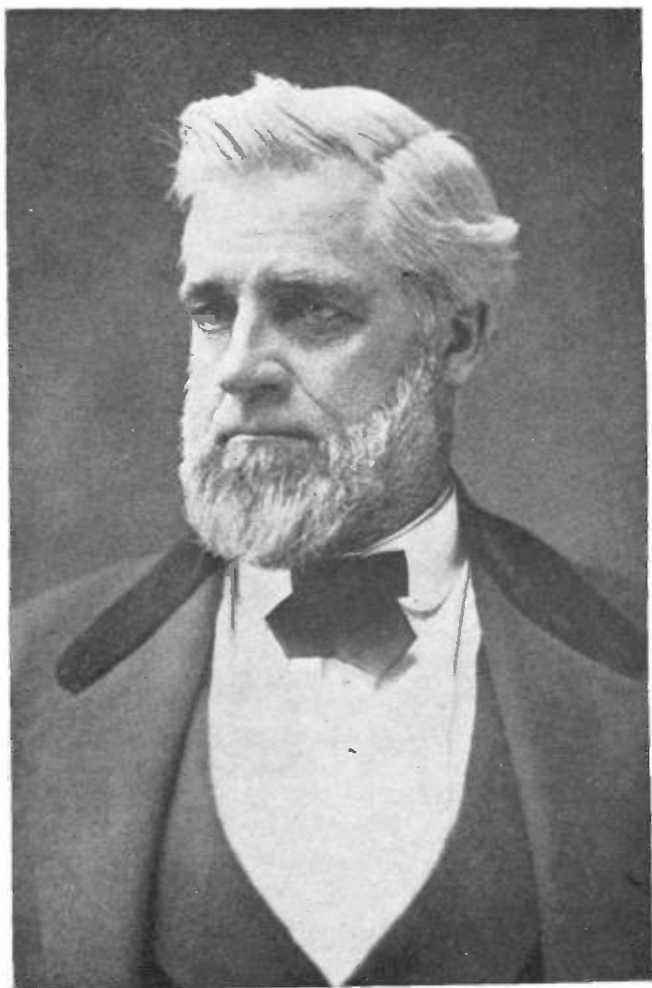
**Martin O. Howe**, well known in this county as contractor and builder, was born in Pilot Mound township, October 13, 1870, son of Martin and Mary Peterson Howe, who came to this country from Norway, their native land. The father died in 1870, and the mother married Ole O. Kleven, also a native of Norway, who came to this country in 1869 and settled on a farm in Carlton township. In 1882 Mr. Kleven purchased a farm in Pilot Mound township, which he operated until his death, in 1892. Martin O. acquired a common school education and stayed on the home farm until May, 1890, during which year he went to Tyler, Minn., and secured employment as a carpenter with Contractor Ole Kelson. From that time he made rapid advancement in his chosen work. In 1892 he went to Tracy, Minn., and secured employment as a carpenter with Pollum Bros., contractors, which firm he assisted in building three churches in Tracy that year. After his step-father's death he returned home to the farm, but continued to work at his trade as a carpenter. He has assisted in building the United Luthern church in Arendahl township and the church at Root Prairie, being elected by the congregation of the latter to act as private overseer of its building. In 1897 he

decided to become a contractor on his own responsibility. Mr. Howe has been most successful and has erected many fine buildings throughout this and adjoining counties. The United Lutheran Church at Pilot Mound, which structure was designed and built by him, has been a pride to the members of its congregation. The home of O. K. Finseth, which is considered one of the finest in the township, was also designed and built by Mr. Howe. He has been active in public affairs, has been chairman of the school board for many years, is present secretary of the Pilot Mound Lutheran Church, has been chairman of the local M. W. A. for years; and in fact, has done everything possible for the good of the community. He married Amanda Fenske, daughter of Henry and Emelia (Rosentke) Fenske, and to them have been born: Mary Emelia, Alma Morilla, Joseph Elmer, and Esther Thea Cecelia, the latter of whom died in 1900.

**Major W. A. Hotchkiss** was born in White Hall, N. Y., February 2, 1823. Having served apprenticeship at the printing business, he followed the same uninterruptedly until 1846, when he volunteered in the Mexican War. Upon arriving at Vera Cruz he was promoted to a non-commissioned officer and served on General Scott's line of operations to the City of Mexico. At the close of the war he followed his profession at Albany, N. Y., and served one year in the legislature as assistant sergeant-at-arms. He came to Minnesota in May, 1854, and commenced the publication of the "Northwestern Democrat" at Minneapolis, the population of that city being then less than fifty. This was the first paper published west of the Mississippi river in the then territory of Minnesota. After four years he sold it and moved onto his farm in Wright county. At the breaking out of the Rebellion he organized a battery (the Second Minnesota) and was commissioned as captain. After participating in the siege of Corinth, he joined the campaign against Bragg, doing valuable service in the most hotly contested parts of the field. For good conduct in the battle of Stone River he was brevetted a major by General Rosecranz and given a command of an artillery brigade of three batteries, serving always in the front lines. Major Hotchkiss was ordered to take command of the artillery defense of Chattanooga and completed the defense in a week; at the end of that time had 110 guns commanding approaches. He was subsequently given an independent command with headquarters at Philadelphia, Tenn., where he remained until the close of the war.

In 1866 he purchased the "Fillmore County Republican," changing the name in 1880 to "National Republican," which he edited until the year 1903, when he sold the paper, being admon-





MAJOR WM. A. HOTCHKISS

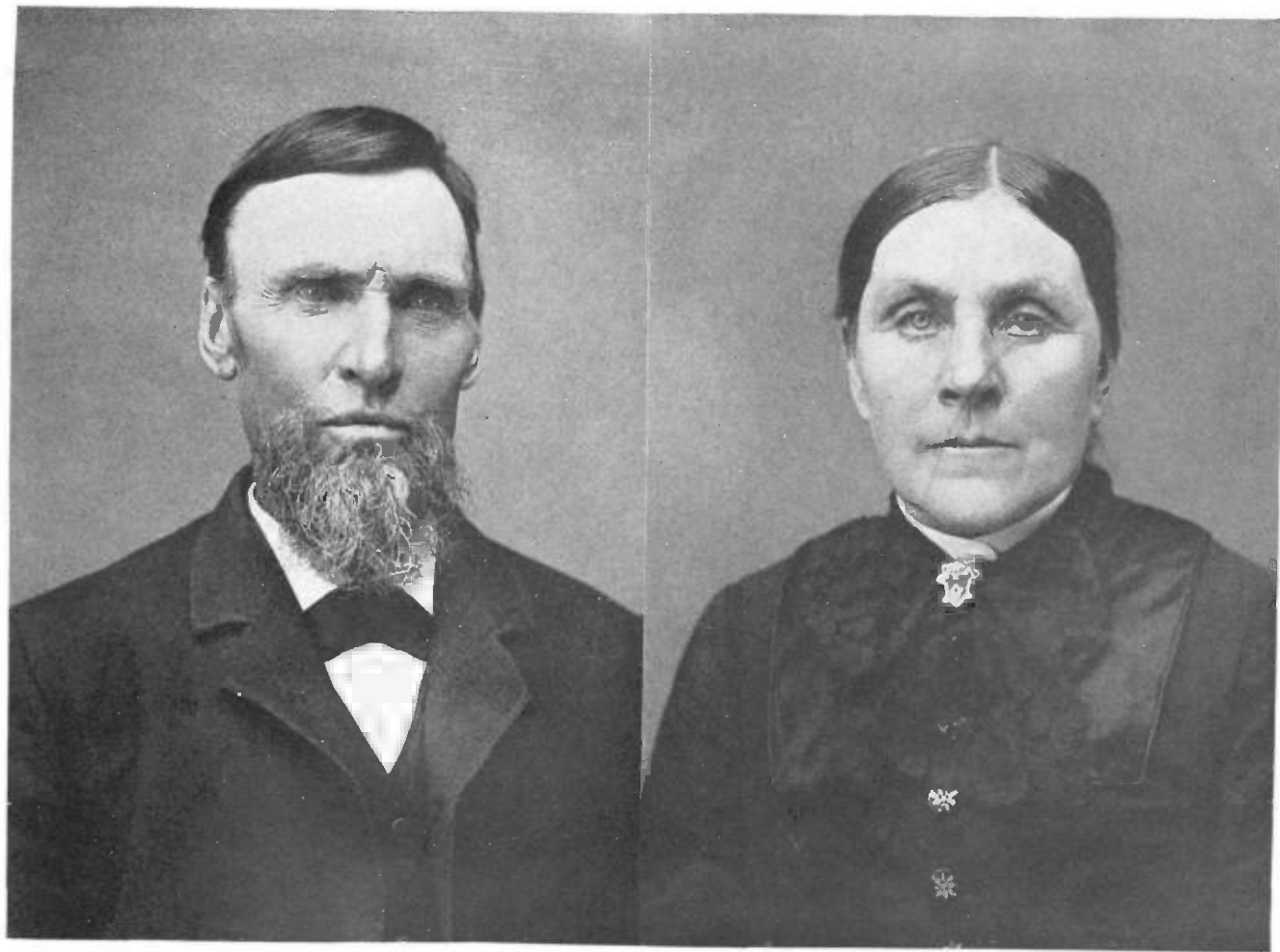
ished by advancing years, that he must lay aside as many cares as possible. Major Hotchkiss was an original progressive; he advocated more than thirty years ago the very reforms that are now being accepted by so many voters of all parties. It required courage of a rare order to stand for these progressive measures when Major Hotchkiss first became their advocate. His paper fought the old Minnesota "Credit Loan Bond" swindle almost alone. His paper was the organ in the state of the National Greenback party, and was one of the leading and the most reliable advocate of the People's party in Minnesota. Major Hotchkiss, the veteran of two wars, always loyal to his country, always faithful to his friends, is now in his ninetieth year, quite vigorous in body and mind, enjoying a well earned rest in his home, beside the families of his children, Frank and Laura, at Kent, in the state of Washington.

**John Kinsella** is one of the representative citizens of Carrollton, in which township he was born September 12, 1859, son of Andrew and Catherine (Redmond) Kinsella. Andrew Kinsella was born in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1830. When a young man he came to America and worked his way west to Minnesota, here homesteading in 1855 a claim on section 10, Carrollton township, on which he built a log cabin. It is claimed he brought the first team of horses into this part of the country. He was later injured in a runaway, as the result of which he died August 15, 1861. His wife passed away in June, 1888. In the humble log house, erected by the father, John, the subject of this biography, grew to manhood, working on the home farm and attending school in district No. 50. After reaching manhood he erected a frame house on the homestead and there resides at the present time, the home being known as "Fair View." As time and opportunity have afforded, Mr. Kinsella has added to his original possessions, until he now has 378 acres, all of which is tillable land. He has made many improvements, and erected a fine set of outbuildings. The large, fine barn which he built in 1911, stands out in prominence. Together with general farming interests, he makes a specialty of dealing in sheep, cattle and horses. He buys, feeds and ships to Chicago, accompanying the stock himself. The profits and loss of his business are all pooled by him and his family, with no outside partner or company assistance. He is a business man in every respect and is very highly respected in his community and by all with whom he has commercial transactions. He was married January 7, 1880, to Margaret Leahy, who was a most devoted wife and loving mother. She died October 20, 1888, leaving two sons, James F. and Andrew J., who are associated with their father at the home of Fair View.

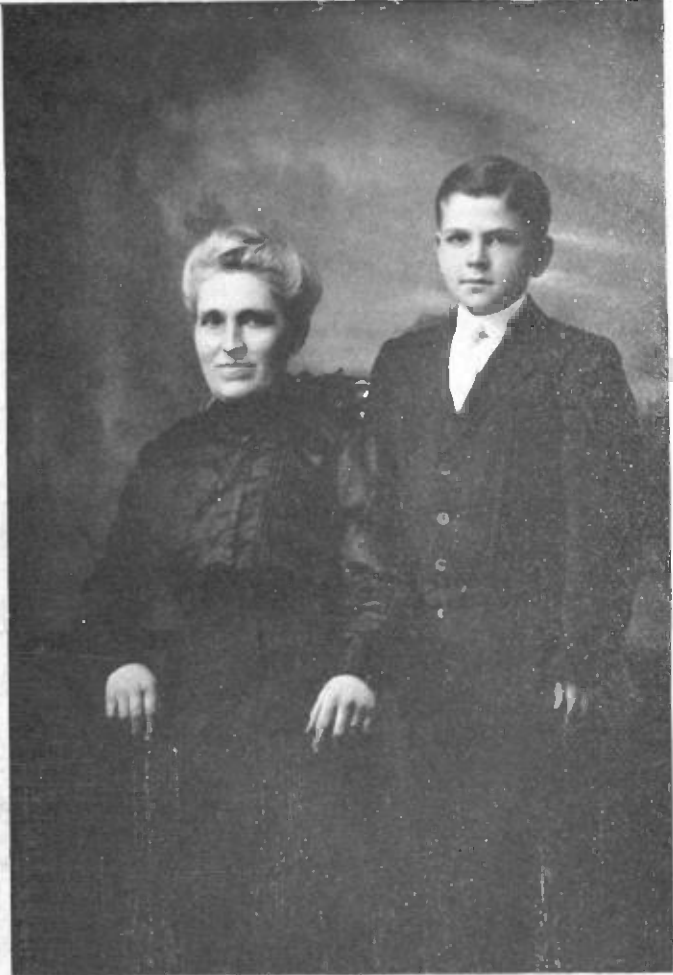
On January 21, 1896, Mr. Kinsella was united in the bonds of matrimony to Anna Lynch, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Enright) Lynch, early settlers of Fillmore county, the former of whom died July 22, 1911, and the latter of whom now resides in Holt township. To Mr. Kinsella, by his second marriage to Anna Lynch, one daughter, Catherine, has been born. Mr. Kinsella is a member of the A. O. H. The members of the family belong to the St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Lanesboro.

**Nels John L. Olness** was born in Arendahl township in 1883, son of Lars O. and Margrethe Nelson (Hyldesgard) Olness. He attended the district school near home and completed his education with a course in the Jewell Lutheran College, Jewell, Iowa, in 1904. After graduating from this institution, he returned to his father's farm, which he operates at the present time, carrying on general farming, raising pure-bred cattle and hogs, and owning eight horses for general farm and driving purposes. As secretary of the local creamery, in which he is a heavy stockholder, he has given universal satisfaction for several years. He is also a stockholder in the elevator. On June 12, 1907, Mr. Olness married Bertha Hermanson, and they are the parents of two sons, Manvel Luther and Joseph Martin. The family worships at the Lutheran church.

**John Mulvihill**, one of the pioneer settlers of Fillmore county, has by hard work, untiring efforts and dauntless courage, become one of its most substantial and respected citizens. Born in the Parish of Glinn, County Limerick, Ireland, in 1832, he received his education in the common schools of his fatherland and there grew to manhood. In 1852 he set sail for America, and spent two years in Illinois and Iowa. In 1854 he came to Fillmore county and took a claim in Carrolton township, where he remained but a short time, after which he returned to Illinois. In 1856 he came back to this county and found that his claim had been jumped. He then secured 160 acres of land in sections 19 and 20, paying \$100 for the claim rights to a man who had filed on it, in addition to which he had to pay \$1.25 an acre to the government. Mr. Mulvihill broke and grubbed the land, erected a good substantial log cabin and added to his possessions from time to time, until he now owns 440 acres. He and his family made their home in the log house until 1884, when he built his present frame house. At the present time he lives practically a retired life, the farm being conducted by his son, Michael J. Mr. Mulvihill has always taken an active interest in whatever has been toward the good and betterment of his town and county. For three years he served as town chairman, was on the



MR. AND MRS. JOHN MULVIHILL



MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. HEALY

town board of supervisors five years, was town treasurer one year and was treasurer of his school district for forty-five years. He is an independent voter. Mr. Mulvihill was united in marriage in the land of his birth in 1851 to Margaret Cox, and through all their married life she proved a most devoted help-mate. Her death, which occurred October 10, 1910, was mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives. To Mr. and Mrs. Mulvihill ten children were born, of whom six are living: Ellen, now Mrs. William LaRowe, of Montevideo, Minn.; Mary, now Mrs. V. R. Wadden, of Madison, S. D.; Catherine, now Mrs. Daniel O'Connell, of Raemona, S. D.; John, also of Raemona, S. D.; M. J., who conducts the home farm, and Johanna, now Mrs. Jerry Mulvihill, of Oxford Junction, Iowa.

Lars O. Olness, one of the early settlers, was born in Sogen, Norway, there receiving his education and fitting himself for the occupation of a farmer. In 1866 he came to America and found his way to Minnesota. In 1871 he located in Arendahl township, where he acquired land, which he grubbed, broke and developed. Like other early settlers in the vicinity, he endured many privations. Water was one and a half miles distant, the faithful wife carried it as the husband worked in the fields. Gradually, as the years passed, their efforts were rewarded, good crops repaid their toil, and they became more and more prosperous. Mr. Olness was clerk of the school board for a period of nine years and for twenty-eight years he has been honored with the office of trustee of the Hague Norwegian Lutheran Church at Peterson. Among business interests, aside from his general farming, he owns shares in the local creamery and elevator. Mr. Olness was married a short time after his arrival in America to Margrethe Nelson Hyldesgard, also a native of Sogen. Mr. and Mrs. Olness had ten children. Three boys died in infancy. Annie is now Mrs. Carl A. Luckassen. Susie married Gustave Gorder and died in 1901. Ingar O. is Mrs. John Gorder. Louise N. married Bernt C. Benson and died in 1904. Nels John married Bertha Hermanson. Ole T. lives with his father at Peterson. Emma C. is the wife of Edward O. Boyum. Mrs. Lars Olness died June 4, 1907. In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. Olness retired from farming and moved to Peterson.

John T. Healy was born in Scales Mound, near Galena, Ill., February 11, 1856, the son of Thomas and Mary (Kelly) Healy, both parents born in Ireland.

John, the subject of this sketch, came to Minnesota with his parents in 1856, when less than one year old. The family consisted at that time, beside the parents and the subject of this

sketch, of an elder brother, Frank, who has served as county attorney of Minneapolis for many years and is now a leading lawyer and respected citizen of that city.

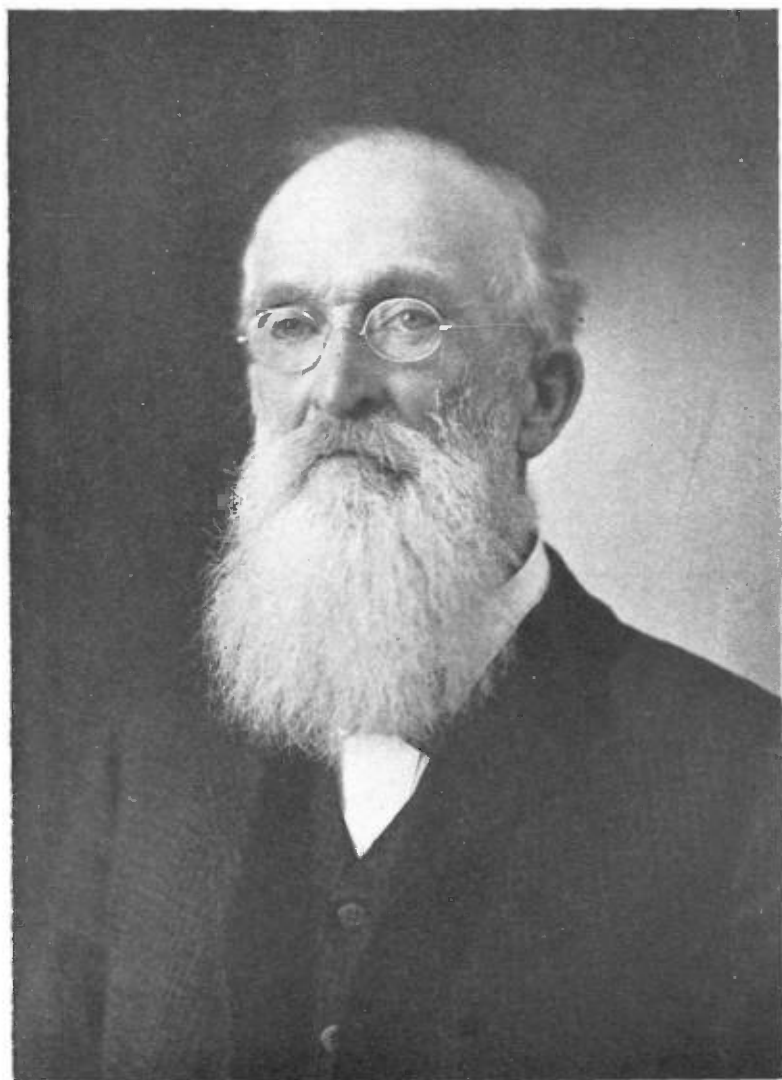
The father, Thomas Healy, settled on a claim upon his arrival in the state in the town of Carimona, in this county, which has ever since remained the family homestead.

John T. grew to manhood and was educated in the schools of Fillmore county, having attended high school at Preston. After leaving school he taught several terms of school in this county, after which he entered the employ of the McCormick Machine Company. He was a general collector for the company in North Dakota for more than ten years. In the year 1893 he resigned his position with the McCormick company and returned to Fillmore county, where, on June 21 of that year, he was married to Martha E. Meighen, the youngest daughter of Felix and Eliza Jane Meighen, of Forestville. Thereafter, in 1897, he settled on his farm in Carimona township, where he resided until his death, on the 11th day of December, 1908. He had planned and just completed a splendid country home when death called him. He was buried in the Catholic cemetery beside the Church of St. Ligouri, in Carimona township.

His widow and three children, viz: Mary E., Eva P. and Master John Meighen Healy, survive him.

John Healy was a magnificent specimen of physical manhood; his purity of heart and cleanness of mind were comparable to his splendid physique. He had good ability and splendid integrity; he could readily discover sham and thoroughly despised it. He was always the foremost man in the community and was frequently sought by young and old when they desired wise counsel. He was trusted by all and never betrayed a trust or proved disloyal to a friend.

**D. J. Tew**, proprietor of the Rushford City Mills, and one of the prosperous and successful business men of Rushford, was born in the township of Le Roy, in northern Ohio, November 10, 1835, that part of the country then being known as the Western Reserve or New Connecticut. He was reared in a pioneer home, obtained a good schooling, and started teaching in 1856, at the age of twenty-one, receiving sixty dollars for three months' services. In the spring of 1857 he came to Minnesota, then a territory, and reached Rushford May 5. At this time there were few buildings in what is now the city; two general stores, one saloon, a log tavern, conducted by C. G. Hulbert, and seven or eight log cabins. The mill was also in operation. After looking over the ground, Mr. Tew returned to Illinois, and in the fall of 1857 taught school in Monticello, Piatt county, Ill. The next spring



D. T. TEW



he went to Wisconsin, and in the fall once more returned to his birthplace. Here his time was taken up teaching and attending school. In 1860, seeing the need of improving his education still more, he went to Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, and was there at the outbreak of the Civil War. The company in which he enlisted was not accepted, but later he served six months in the quartermaster's department under Captain Gobart, at Du Vall's Bluff, Ark. At the close of the Civil War he turned westward and arrived in Rushford in September, 1865. On September 20, 1865, he, in company with G. W. and R. H. Valentine, purchased the Hiram Walker interest in the old mill, and they conducted it under the name of Valentines & Tew. In the winter of 1865, Mr. Tew taught school in the stone schoolhouse, since enlarged, and now the residence of F. A. Olson. He also taught the fall term of 1866 in the "Chapel," which is now owned by Dr. J. W. Magelssen. November 28, 1866, he was united in marriage to Luana A. Valentine, who was also a teacher. They went on a wedding journey to Ohio, and in the spring of 1867 returned to Rushford by rail. Immediately on returning, Mr. Tew took up his occupation as miller and prosecuted it with vigor. At that time the milling industry was at its height. There was an abundance of wheat of good quality, and a ready sale of flour. Flour at this time was sold for \$6.50 a barrel. In the summer of 1874, Mr. Tew and G. W. Valentine, his partner, who was in poor health, visited California. November 7 of this year, the original Rushford mill burned, together with eight thousand bushels of wheat and two hundred barrels of flour. There was no insurance and the loss on stock and machinery was considerable. Nothing daunted, the proprietors immediately began the erection of the present mill, and it began grinding in the month of February, 1876. In March of that year G. W. Valentine died and for a time the mill was operated by his heirs and D. J. Tew and R. H. Valentine. August 1, 1879, Mr. Tew became sole owner and has operated it continuously since that date. The mill did an extensive business, at one time exceeding 40,000 bushels of exchange annually. The amount of flour shipped to the Eastern and Southern states at the time wheat was the main crop here was around 15,000 barrels a year. Besides this, there was a large amount sold in the towns about here.

Mr. Tew married Luana A., daughter of John and Polly (Cady) Valentine, a native of Ohio, and they have had two children: Elbert, now deceased, and Estella, the wife of C. P. Sprague. Of Mr. Tew it has been said: "He is a progressive and noted business man, and has ever lived a useful life. Always affiliated with the progress of our city, with her best interests constantly at heart, noted far and wide in the milling industry,

honest in his dealings with his fellow men, he is a citizen whom our city is proud to claim as her own."

Of the history of the mill, before Mr. Tew became interested in it, the following has been said: "The flour mill had been started when Mr. Tew made his first visit here, and though the country was sparsely settled, was doing a good business, as custom came from a long distance. It stood about thirty rods west of the present mill, right beside the dam. It was built by H. Walker and R. H. Valentine in 1856. This was the noted year of the crust, and the owners overcame many obstacles in the building. Their machinery had to be hauled from Winona, and they started with it and got as far as Hall's tavern before the snow got so deep and the crust so hard that the use of horses or cattle for hauling was impossible. Hall's tavern lay about eleven miles north of Rushford, where the Chatfield road coming from the west meets the Rushford road coming from the south. Here was a conundrum. The mill frame was up and the proprietors were anxious to get to work, and yet their machinery was eleven miles away, and the use of teams impossible. But not to be overcome by difficulties, they hired a dozen men on skis, who went to Hall's tavern and hauled the machinery to Rushford on large hand sleds, built for the purpose. When they descended hills they had to use ropes tied to trees to let the sleds down slowly."

**Oscar Dahl**, merchant, postmaster, and a leading business man of Prosper, Minn., was born in Canton township, December 20, 1875, son of Lars O. and Beret (Halseth) Dahl. After receiving his education in the public schools of Canton, he spent five years in the creamery business. In 1898 he engaged in the mercantile business at Prosper, in which he has since continued. In February, 1900, he was appointed postmaster. He is president of the Prosper Co-operative Creamery, a director in the State Line Bank of Prosper, president of the Prosper Lumber Company, and a director in the Northwestern Consolidated Land, Lumber & Iron Company, of Wappello, Mo. He is a member of Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M., and of the I. O. O. F. of Alexandria, Minn. Mr. Dahl was married September 2, 1900, to Ella Beach, a sister of Mrs. G. W. Willford. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**Johannes H. Johnson Engrav** was born in Norway in 1865, son of Halvor and Asper Engrav, who brought him to America when he was four years of age, locating in Iowa, where the parents passed the remainder of their lives, the father passing away November 27, 1911, and the mother on December 18, 1910. The subject of this sketch acquired a common school education



JOHN FITZGERALD, RESIDENCE

in Iowa, there grew to manhood and assisted his father with the work on the farm, from him learning the scientific principles of agricultural operations. On October 12, 1892, he came to Minnesota and located in Norway township, this county, where two years previous he had purchased a farm. Mr. Johnson now owns 200 acres on section 17 and carries on general farming and stock raising. Politically he is affiliated with the Republican party, and has served as supervisor of the township for one term and treasurer of the school district for several terms. He married Minne M. Hersrud, November 17, 1888, and she has borne him nine children. The six living are: Hattie, Julia, Carl, Clara, Walter and Henry. The family is united with the Norwegian Lutheran Synod.

**Edward Lynch** and his wife, Catherine Barry, natives of Ireland, were born in County Cork. They crossed the ocean and came among the early settlers of Carrolton township, where they took land and engaged in general farming, making their home in a log cabin until the times allowed better advantages. They were the parents of six children: John, of Luverne, Minn.; Edward, of Woonsocket, N. D.; Johanna, now Mrs. James Fitzgerald, of Rock county, Minnesota; Michael, who owns and conducts the old homestead in Carrolton township; Mary, now Mrs. Cornelius Bresnahan, of Holt township, and Frances, now Mrs. John W. Fitzgerald, of Carrolton. Edward Lynch died in 1874. Catherine (Barry) Lynch died in 1903.

**Edson R. Willford**, who owns a fine farm of 160 acres in sections 30 and 31, Canton township, was born on the old home farm in Canton township, June 14, 1859, and received his education in the little school house which stood on his father's farm. During vacation seasons he worked with his father, thus preparing himself for the useful life of a farmer. In 1893 he purchased his present farm. He has greatly improved and beautified the place, and in 1905 erected his pleasant home, which is practically modern throughout. Mr. Willford was married June 16, 1887, to Mary McKay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter McKay, and three children have blessed their home: Mildred J., Claude B. and Donald E. Mr. Willford is a strong temperance worker. He has served his town as a member of the board of supervisors and as school treasurer of district 25, and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at Canton.

**John W. Fitzgerald**, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, May 1, 1860, son of James and Hanora (Fitzgerald) Fitzgerald, who, with their son John W., crossed the Atlantic for America in

1862, coming at once to Winona, Minn. James and his wife walked from that point to Carrolton township, bringing with them their son, John W. After their arrival they bought a farm and then sent to Ireland for four children whom they had left behind. After purchasing their farm in Carrolton township, the family lived in a dug-out. A few years later they erected a substantial log house, in which they spent the remainder of their lives, the father passing away October 18, 1892, and the mother July 5, 1902. They were the parents of seven children: Johanna, who became Mrs. E. Maloney, and died June 22, 1911; James, of Rock county; Bridget, who is now Mrs. John Lynch, of Rock county, Minnesota; Elizabeth, who is now Mrs. Michael Bergan, of Springwater, Minnehaha county, Minn.; John W., of Carrolton township, this county, and Michael J. and Mary, who are deceased. The last two mentioned were born in America. John W., subject of this biography, acquired his education in the old log school house in district 51, near the home of his parents, and spent his vacation months working on the home farm, thereby fitting himself for the useful life of a farmer. That he has succeeded in his chosen work is evidenced by his farm of 560 acres. For eighteen years Mr. Fitzgerald has occupied the office of clerk of school district No. 51. He also served his town as a member of the board of supervisors for two years and as township assessor for a period of five years, filling all offices to which he has been elected with both credit and ability. He was united in the bonds of matrimony January 24, 1888, to Frances Lynch, born February 10, 1865, daughter of Edward and Catherine (Barry) Lynch. To them four children have been born: James, deceased, and Gertrude, Edward and Raymond, living at home. The members of the family worship at and are esteemed members and loyal contributors of St. Patrick's Church, of Lanesboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald take particular pride in their beautiful farm of 560 acres, located in sections 7, 8 and 17, Carrolton township. Its well tilled area of beautiful rolling prairie, its picturesque groves, which break the sweep of the winter winds; its productiveness and its well-kept aspect, all speak in the highest terms of the thrift, success, judgment and taste of its owners. The stately and modern home shows a striking contrast to the "dug-out" and the log cabin of the early days, and is typical of the progress and development which the county has known. This home, which presents the appearance of a manor house of an English estate, is situated on the southwest quarter of section 8, and is approached from the main road by a winding drive. About the house are spreading lawns, abundant shrubbery, fruitful orchards, thick hedges, orderly gardens and beds of flowers. Cement walks connect the house with the road and with the out-

buildings, adding that finishing touch of distinction which never fails to elicit exclamations of admiration from passers-by. The outbuildings are fully in keeping with the home. It is not in appearance alone, however, that the place excels. The home is modern in every respect, containing a hot-water heating plant, running hot and cold water, and many other conveniences. An electric light plant is also to be installed in the near future. The Fitzgeralds have delighted in sharing their comforts with their friends, and a cheery spirit pervades the place, Mrs. Fitzgerald's hospitality and her ability as a housewife being widely known. Conveniences have lightened the labor of home and farm, and the owners have evidently solved the problem of making rural life attractive and pleasant. All-in-all, it has been said that the Fitzgeralds have the ideal home farm of Fillmore county.

**Gustave M. Johnson**, farmer and veterinary surgeon, was born in Norway, August 12, 1866, son of Mathias and Ellen Johnson, who brought him to America, settling first at Lansing, Iowa, then moving to Newburg township, this county, and finally purchasing a farm in Holt township, where the father died and where the mother now resides, the property being worked by Frederick, brother of the subject of this sketch. Gustave M. acquired a common school education and early in life manifested an interest in veterinary surgery, to which profession he now devotes much time and skill. He owns a farm of eighty acres on section six and there carries on agricultural pursuits, raising stock and interesting himself in dairying. He is a Republican politically and has occupied the office of treasurer of the school board for a period of time. September 4, 1889, he married Jessie Easton, born June 29, 1867, in West Union, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson seven children have been born: Lottie E., Martin E., Ruth M., Esther B., Arthur L., Louis and Alice. The family faith is that of the United Lutheran church.

**W. S. Aarnes, D. D. S.**, was born at Springfield, Minn., January 22, 1885, son of August and Julia (Hellickson) Aarnes. He removed with his parents to Montevideo, Chippewa county, Minn., in the year of his birth, and there acquired his primary education and grew to manhood. He later entered the University of Minnesota, graduating from the dental department in the class of 1907, after which he returned to Montevideo and there opened an office, building up a fast increasing business. The success with which he met the demands of the public and the general satisfaction given, won for him a good reputation. Soon afterward he came to Lanesboro, where he has a well equipped and modern office, and engages in all branches of dental surgery with

skill and efficiency. He was united in marriage September 1, 1909, to Hazel Vickerman, daughter of Isaac and Anna (Knox) Vickerman.

August Aarnes was born at Fredericksal, Norway, and emigrated to America in about 1855, at the age of eighteen years. He first located at LaCrosse, Wis., where he was employed in the lumber yard. Later he moved to Rochester, Minn., and there was engaged as clerk in a hardware store. In 1878 he moved to Springfield, Minn., where he engaged in the grain business until 1885, that year moving to Montevideo, Minn., where he engaged in the same line of business. He was later elected county auditor of Chippewa county, which position he held for about ten years. He is now engaged in the mercantile business at Montevideo. He was united in marriage to Julia Hellickson, daughter of Matthew and Anna Hellickson, territorial pioneers of Fillmore, and the first settlers of Bloomfield township. Mr. and Mrs. Aarnes were the parents of nine children: Maria, a teacher in Spokane, Wash.; Constance, now Mrs. F. J. Rebutus, of Wagner, S. D.; Alivilda, who is a trained nurse at Portland, Ore.; Paul, who is farming at Milestone, Canada; Julia, who is a milliner at Montevideo; Dr. W. S., of Lanesboro; Selma, now Mrs. R. D. Saunders, of Minneapolis; Rudolph, who is clerking at Milestone, Canada; Helen, who resides at home.

**John McLeod**, an honored pioneer, was born in Nova Scotia, October 31, 1846, son of Roderick and Isabelle (McDonald) McLeod, of Scotland, who came to America in 1844, lived a time in Nova Scotia, located in Dodge county, Wisconsin, in 1851, and on June 3, 1854, moved to Rushford, where the father took a claim of 160 acres on sections ten and eleven, on which property there was a humble shanty in which the family lived until they erected the comfortable frame dwelling in which the father now lives at the advanced age of ninety-three years. John, the subject of this biography, acquired his education in the neighborhood. At one time he attended school in a very poorly built shanty of slabs which was located on land of which he later in life became the owner. He also attended school in the house which is now the home of Fred Olson. At the age of twenty-six years, Mr. McLeod went to Nova Scotia and married Mary Isabelle Fraser, daughter of Alexander and Isabelle (Campbell) Fraser. Returning to Rushford the following year, he and his bride settled on a farm of sixty acres which he had previously purchased and to which he soon added eighty acres more. There for many years he has carried on agricultural industries with success, prospering by dint of hard work and good management. That he has the confidence and high esteem of his

fellow citizens is evidenced by the many public offices in which he has served. He has been a member of both town and school board for thirty years; and in fact, has occupied nearly all town offices with the exception of that of treasurer.

He has been president of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Preble for the past fifteen years, and is a stockholder in the creamery and farmers' elevator at Rushford, as well as in the Rushford telephone exchange. He has been through the chairs of the Mystic Star Lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M., and has been prominently affiliated with other organizations. To Mr. and Mrs. McLeod seven children were born: Mary C., married H. C. McMillen, resides in Albert Lea, and has four children; Alexander F. married Janie Ferguson and has three children; William H. married Elizabeth Ferguson and has three children; George is deceased; Isabelle married Frank Robertson and has two children; John A. married Pearl Monk and has two children; Christie is teaching in Montana.

**Martin Magnuson** was born in Hart township, Winona county, on August 23, 1862, son of Gabriel and Mary Magnuson, natives of Norway, where they lived till 1860, when they came to this country and settled first in Rushford township, this county, the following year moving to Hart township, Winona county, and two years later returning to Fillmore county and buying land in section seven, Rushford township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1870 and the mother in 1907. Martin was but eight years old when his father died, and consequently the burdens of manhood fell early on his shoulders and he did not have much time to attend school. Even as a boy he assisted his mother materially in farming the home place, and when twenty years of age he rented the farm from her. After he had saved sufficient capital he bought the place, and now owns 175 acres in sections seven, six, five and eight, Rushford. He keeps a herd of from 25 to 30 grade Short-horn cattle. He formerly kept a large number of sheep, but in recent years has kept a comparatively small number. He has several mules and raises from 20 to 25 Poland China hogs annually. In political views Mr. Magnuson is a Democrat, and though living in a community with a large Republican majority, he has held a number of offices, among which are clerk and treasurer of the school board in district number 160, for a period of nine years. In June, 1888, he married Jacobina Woxland, and this union has been blessed with seven children: Gerhart, Garman, Inga Elisa, Maria Tomine, Clara Regine, Melvin Johan and John Martin. The Lutheran church of Rushford is the family place of worship.



**Rev. Martin John Westphal**, the eloquent pastor of the Peterson and Arendahl Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran churches of the Hague Synod, was born in Denmark, July 19, 1861, son of Joachim Daniel Westphal and Metta K. (Bydgaard) Westphal, the former born in Germany, June 7, 1833, and the latter born in Denmark, March 8, 1837. They left Denmark in 1874, and in May of that year settled with their family in Michigan City, Ind., where they still reside. Martin John remained with his parents till he was twenty-one years of age and then began life on his own responsibility. In 1885 he went to Red Wing Seminary, Red Wing, Minn., from which he graduated in the theological department in 1890. In June, 1890, he was ordained and was called to Crookston, Minn., where he took charge of the Lutheran church. The church was one of a newly formed congregation and the building was not completed. He assisted in making the early completion possible and had the structure dedicated during his pastorate there. After five years he received a call to which he responded and went to Viroqua, Wis., where he had charge of one city and three country churches. He there did excellent work for more than nine years. During his pastorate a parsonage was erected at Viroqua. In 1904 he resigned from that position and was called to his present charge, where he has since done such excellent service. On December 20, 1887, he was married to Elizabeth Caroline Larson, a daughter of Hans B. and Bergitta (Olson) Larson, natives of Norway. She was born in Carver county, Minnesota, where the family lived till one year later, when they moved to St. Paul, where she grew to womanhood. Reverend and Mrs. Westphal are the parents of ten children: Victor Emanuel, a graduate of the Academic Department of the Red Wing Seminary, is now in the government service as mail carrier; Harold Joachim, Malvin Benjamin, Reuben Gustav, Ruth Elizabeth, Esther Matine, Alma Katherine, Obed William and Eva Caroline are all at home. Edwin died at the age of twelve days. Ruth Elizabeth and Esther Matine are twins.

**Olaus Olson**, veteran of the Civil War and highly esteemed resident of the city of Rushford, was born about five miles north of the city of Christiania, Norway, January 14, 1844, and there spent the early years of his boyhood. In 1861, with an uncle, Nels Larson, he crossed the Atlantic to America. After his arrival in this country Mr. Olson was employed at various occupations for a year near Rushford. During the fall of 1862 he enlisted with the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, serving for thirteen months. Then he returned to Rushford, and in February, 1864, enlisted in the Second Minnesota Light Artillery and went



MR. AND MRS. HENRY STAGE

to Tennessee, where he remained until the close of the war. After being mustered out at Fort Snelling, Minn., he returned to Rushford and worked at his trade as stone mason. Soon the Southern Minnesota was in course of construction and Mr. Olson was foreman of the stone work and built the dam at Lanesboro. He has also had other responsible contracts and erected the Lutheran and Episcopal churches in Rushford city, the Catholic church at Lanesboro, and the Overland church in Norway township, as well as many buildings of less importance. In 1871 Mr. Olson moved to Norway township, where he settled on a farm, which he purchased in section twenty-eight, and where for many years he made his home, returning to Rushford city in 1903. Mr. Olson resides in one of the finest dwellings in the city and is spending his latter years amid many comforts which his years of industry have earned him. On December 8, 1867, Mr. Olson married Berget Russell, and to them were born seven children: Nettie, Mary, John, Ole, Caroline, Lars and Amelia. The wife and mother died September 20, 1895. On December 1, 1903, Mr. Olson married Mrs. Christina (Michaelson) Nelson, who was born in Norway, December 18, 1847, and came to America at four years of age with her parents, Michael and Johanna Michaelson. Mr. Olson is a member of the Rushford Post, No. 97, G. A. R. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator of Rushford city, and while on his farm in Norway township was clerk of school district No. 15 for several years, and member of the board of supervisors for fourteen consecutive years.

**Henry Stage**, pioneer of Fillmore county, now deceased, was born August 29, 1830, in Hanover, Germany, and acquired his education and learned his trade in his native land. He reached New York in 1851 and there remained for several years, later moving to Illinois. During May, 1856, he came to Minnesota and settled on a farm in Rushford township. This wild land he prepared for cultivation, and as the years passed and prosperity crowned his hard work he added to his holdings, becoming the owner of a mill, which proved a profitable source of income, and also engaging in raising stock. Beginning with limited means Mr. Stage toiled with a will, and owing to his excellent management and farsightedness he accumulated a comfortable fortune. On February 26, 1864, he enlisted in Company K, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and was honorably discharged August 16, 1865. In 1857 he married Martha Emery. Two of their four children are now living: Mary, the wife of David Otis, and Orville, living on the home farm, "Indian Garden." Martha (Emery) Stage died in 1863, and on July 16, 1866, Mr. Stage was united in marriage

with Sarah Coolidge. To this marriage seven children were born: Margaret, Anna, Alice, William, Carrie, George and Bessie. Margaret married J. A. Johnson and has one daughter, Alice; Anna, the wife of Eugene Summer, has nine children; Alice, now Mrs. G. H. Pierce, has seven children; William married Mary Tenberg (now deceased) and has two children; George married Ida Roth; Bessie teaches school in Fairmount; Carrie is deceased. Mr. Stage passed away January 4, 1896, and his death was a great loss to the entire community, especially to Rushford Post, G. A. R., in which he had been a valued member. Mrs. Stage moved to Rushford after her husband's death and now makes that place her home. Mrs. Stage was born in Potsdam, St. Lawrence county, New York, August 5, 1849, daughter of William B. and Sarah (Coolidge) Coolidge, both natives of New York state. The father, a stone and brick mason, brought his family to Rushford in 1862, and a year later moved to Fremont, Winona county, where he worked at his trade and also did some farming. He died at Slayton, Minn., January 7, 1891, and his wife died November 7, 1890.

**George L. Swenson**, leading photographer of the city of Rushford, was born in Norway township, this county, August 27, 1879, son of Ole C. and Gunild (Glenna) Swenson, natives of Norway, the former of whom came to America at five years of age, and the latter at fifteen years of age, being married in the township of Norway, which has since been their home. George L., their son, received his preliminary education in the district schools of Norway township and attended the high school of Rushford, where he completed his studies, after which he engaged in farming with his father, and there remained until twenty-one years of age. He then went to Peterson, where he learned the art of photography in the studio of C. R. Moen. In 1902 he opened his present studio in the city of Rushford, and has been crowned with success in his chosen profession, having a large and increasing city and country trade. Aside from his studio, he has as a side line the agency for the Reliable Steam Laundry of LaCrosse. He is a secretary of the Mystic Star Lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M., and a member of the Rushford Commercial Club. He worships at the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Simon Kolstad**, a successful and enterprising farmer residing in Pilot Mound township, was born in Norway in 1848, son of Hans and Elsie (Hanson) Kolstad, who brought him to America in 1855, taking a homestead in Pilot Mound township, which they developed and improved, and where they farmed for many years. Simon attended the country schools when a boy and

assisted his father with the farm duties. In 1882 he bought a farm and to this has since added until he at present owns 210 acres on sections twenty-five, twenty-six and thirty-five. Here he carries on general diversified farming and stockraising. He prefers Shorthorn cattle for general dairy purposes, raises graded hogs and keeps several good horses for the carrying on of his farming industries. Politically the subject of this biography is a Republican and has been elected to serve in minor offices in the township, having been director of the school board and road overseer. He is a member of the United Lutheran church, toward the support of which he liberally contributes. In 1887 he was united in matrimony with Carrie Hovlein, daughter of Lars and Ragnild Hovlein. To this marriage have been born: Helmer, Ludwig, Sophia, Hannah, Julia, Herman and Carl.

**K. H. Rude**, of Rushford township, was born in Norway, January 2, 1856, son of Halvor and Helge Rude. When but ten years of age he came to the United States with his parents, who located in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, and there farmed for a period of seven years. In 1875 the subject of this biography started for himself by coming to Fillmore county and buying eighty acres on section twenty-nine, Rushford. To his original holdings, Mr. Rude has added from time to time and he now owns 200 acres. He carries on general farming, stock raising and dairying, and that he has been successful in his life's work is plainly evidenced by the prosperous appearance of his home and farm, with well kept buildings and broad acres. His many duties on the home farm have prevented his taking an active part in political affairs, though he is affiliated with the Republican party. Sena Oian became his wife in March, 1892, and to them have been born: Henry, Melvin, Clara, Selmer, Thomas, Oscar, and a child who died in infancy.

**Henry Ness**, deceased, was born in Hohenstein, Germany, October 22, 1825. At the age of six he lost his father and at the age of twelve years he was obliged to support himself. In 1848 he was drafted for the queen's guard at Copenhagen and for three years served in the war against Denmark, participating in the battles of Kolling, Eichstad, Double and Fredrichia. He crossed the ocean to America in 1857 and upon his arrival in this country sought employment at various occupations in Iowa and other states. Eventually coming to Harmony township, he settled on a farm, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1868, then disposing of his property. He later bought land in Amherst and there lived until 1890, during which year he moved to the comfortable home in Lanesboro which he had purchased of

H. J. Cook, and retired from active life. During the war between the North and South, Mr. Ness enlisted in Company B, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He served in many battles, and was finally mustered out at Fort Snelling in October, 1865. Mr. Ness married Margaret Hahn, July 15, 1860, and to them were born two children. Marie married William Patterson and has two children, Effie L. and Lela A. Sarah married F. J. Zilch, whose family came to America in 1872, and they have one son, born in April, 1909. August 6, 1891, Mr. Ness was summoned to the Great Beyond and his death was sincerely mourned, not alone by his immediate family, but by all with whom he had been associated. Mrs. Margaret (Hahn) Ness was born in Hohenstein, Germany, December 22, 1825, one of six children of John H. and Sophia (Bourman) Hahn, the former being one of the managers of the Duke of Oldenburg's estate in Germany. She came to America in 1860 with a party of friends and here married Mr. Ness. The children in her father's family were: Fred-erich, Henry, John, Margaret, Christina and Sophia.

**Olaf Hanson** was born in Amherst township, Fillmore county, February 9, 1875, son of Ole and Celia Hanson, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1872, remained several years in Lanesboro, and then purchased a farm of forty acres in Amherst, where the father died June 18, 1910, and where the mother still lives. Olaf Hanson received his education in the common schools of the county and assisted his parents on the home farm. He then worked out several years and afterward rented land. He now operates the home farm for his mother and rents over 200 acres, carrying on general farming operations. He has a good herd of eighteen general purpose cattle and eight horses, and raises from twenty-five to fifty hogs annually. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican, but never sought public office. Though busy with his farm the year around, he has a sawing outfit and finds time in the winter months to cut wood for the farmers in his locality. He was married November 30, 1905, to Nora Quam, born in Preble township, April 14, 1877. To them have been born two children, Pearl Oveda and Orvill Bertram.

**Ole H. Wifald**, successful farmer residing in Rushford, was born in Norway, June 12, 1856, son of Halvor and Margit Wifald, who brought him to America when ten years of age and settled on section twenty-seven, Rushford, where, after three years, the father bought eighty acres and there carried on farming for the remainder of his life, his death occurring July 22, 1911, and that of the wife and mother, May 4, 1891. Ole H. passed his



MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL MILLER

boyhood years much as the average farmer boy, working for his father and attending school. When twenty years of age, he started for himself, rented a farm for two years, and then bought 120 acres in section twenty-seven. This farm was wild land, covered with brush and timber and required much labor to fit it for cultivation of crops. Mr. Wifald toiled year after year, improving and clearing his property and erecting his comfortable home and the buildings which now shelter his stock and farm products. As a general farmer, he raises Jersey and Herford cattle, Poland China hogs and good farm horses. He is affiliated with the Republican party, though never an office seeker. January 3, 1876, Martha Gulickson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Gulickson, became his wife. Mrs. Martha Gulickson Wifald came to Minnesota from Dane county, Wisconsin, in 1872. Her father lost his life in the Root river in 1856 by drowning, and her mother died two years previous to that time. To Mr. and Mrs. Wifald six children have been born: Henry, of Hettinger, N. D.; Alfred, of Rushford; Joseph, deceased; Josephine, at Lanesboro; Sophia and Almina, at home. The members of the family belong to the United Lutheran church.

**Michael Miller**, vice president of the Rushford Wagon Works, was born at Luxemburg, Germany, March 15, 1849, son of Peter and Catherine (Webber) Miller. He attended school in the land of his birth, acquired a good education and there grew to manhood. Hearing of the many opportunities offered ambitious young men in America, he crossed the Atlantic with his brother Philip and came to Minnesota, reaching Rushford on September 9, 1866. He secured employment on the Southern Minnesota railroad, then in course of construction, and worked until its completion in 1867, the first train passing over the road on January 1 of that year. For two years after this, Mr. Miller was employed by various farmers in and about Rushford, and in the spring of 1869, with his brother Peter, he opened a market, having learned the meat business in the old country. For two months they carried on business in Rushford, after which they moved to Lanesboro, where they remained until during the fall of 1871, then returning to Rushford and again opening a market. For many years Michael and Peter Miller were extensively engaged in land dealing, owning at one time nearly 2,000 acres. During the time they were in business they bought cattle and hogs and shipped extensively. The shipping business was discontinued April 10, 1908. The meat business had been discontinued in 1895. Michael Miller still owns a farm of 346 acres, about a mile out of Rushford, which he rents on shares. For some years Peter, Michael and Philip Miller were interested in



the wagon business, Peter and Michael selling to Philip in 1897. In 1906 a stock company, the Rushford Wagon Company, was organized. Michael Miller, the subject of this sketch, now lives practically a retired life in his substantial and comfortable home, located near the center of the city. He has extensive business interests in the county and elsewhere, and is a prominent man, having served on the city council and in other positions. He has also traveled widely, he and his wife having visited the Paris Exposition in 1900, leaving Rushford August 4 and returning December 20. Mrs. Miller was formerly Katherine Hoffman, a native of Luxemburg, Germany.

**Philip Miller** was born in Luxemburg, Germany, and married **Anna Diefergin**. He came to America with his brother, Michael, arriving September 9, 1866. For many years he was employed at various occupations. Finally, with his brothers, Peter and Michael, he became interested in wagon making. He bought his brothers' interest in 1897 and conducted the business until his death, in 1905. A year later a stock company was organized, which is still conducted as the Rushford Wagon Company.

**Peter Miller**, secretary of the Rushford Wagon Company, was born in Rushford in 1875, son of Philip and Anna (Diefergin) Miller. He received a good schooling and a practical business training, and has been identified with the wagon business for many years. Politically, Mr. Miller has done good service as a member of the city council. He married **Josephine Knauf**, and they have two children, **Joseph** and **Peter A.** Mr. Miller is both ambitious and progressive, and has for many years taken an active interest in all movements which have tended toward the advancement and improvement of his home city. His many estimable qualities have won for him the high regard of his fellow men.

**Alexander Ferguson**, deceased, who was one of the successful and highly respected farmers of Fillmore county, was born in North Sherbrooke, Canada, August 29, 1837, son of **Duncan** and **Barbara (Currie) Ferguson**, natives of Argyleshire, Scotland, who came to Fillmore county in 1862, where the father acquired land which he broke and developed. Alexander was educated in the schools of Canada, came with his parents to this county in 1862, and purchased 200 acres of land in section seven, **Arendahl** township, where he engaged in general agriculture and became a substantial citizen. In connection with his general farming interests he raised many cattle, sheep and hogs, and realized from this branch a profitable income. He was a staunch Republican

and was elected to serve as a member of both town and school boards, discharging the duties of all offices to which he was elected with credit to himself and with satisfaction to all. He was united in marriage to Janet Gillmore in the year 1864, and their marriage was blessed with two children: Duncan and Janet G. The latter is now Mrs. Samuel Randall. Janet (Gillmore) Ferguson died September, 1867, and on February 14, 1882, Mr. Ferguson married Maggie McKay, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter McKay, and to this marriage four children were born: Alistair P., Ethel M., Florence M. and Charles McDonald. Ethel M. is now Mrs. Henry Cocker, of Winona county. Alexander Ferguson died April 9, 1886. Mrs. Ferguson then rented the farm until 1900, since which date she and her children have conducted it. The farm is known as "Faraway."

**Asmund Vaagen** was born in Norway September 14, 1860, and came to the United States in 1883, farming in Illinois for a while and then, in 1886, coming to Fillmore county, which has since been his home. For two years he lived on a farm in section fifteen, Rushford and in 1888 he rented the William Robertson property in section sixteen, which was well improved and had a good quota of substantial buildings. Mr. Vaagen has since followed general farming and stock raising, having purchased the place in 1904. He owns a herd of fifty Shorthorn cattle, from 100 to 200 Shropshire sheep, keeps from ten to fifteen horses and raises from 75 to 100 Poland China hogs annually. He has added to his original farm until he now owns 520 acres in sections sixteen and seventeen, of which about 300 acres are under cultivation. Mr. Vaagen is a member of the Rushford Lutheran church. In politics he is of independent mind but has for many years been one of the leaders in Rushford village. He has been a member of the school board in district 146 for many years, village recorder for three years, trustee two years and president of the village for eleven years. He was secretary of his church for eleven years and member of the board of directors for the Farmers' Elevator and also of the creamery board. To name all the offices which he has held would be to give a complete list of the offices of Rushford. In February, 1885, he married Christie Jaastad, and to them have been born seven daughters, six of whom are at present living at home: Gertrude, Laura, Hannah, Bertha, Josephine and Christie.

**John O. Hill**, who has been a resident of Arendahl since 1873, first saw the light of day at Sogen, Norway, in 1853, son of Ole Johnson Mundahl and Maria (Hanson) Mundahl, who passed their lives in the land of their birth. John O. was educated in

Norway and came to America in 1870, locating first in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he worked for a period of three years and then coming to Fillmore county, Minnesota. In 1880 he bought a farm of 160 acres in section twenty-one, also 40 acres in section twenty, and on this property he carries on general farming, stockraising and dairying. He is interested in raising full blooded Plymouth Rock chickens, which has proven a profitable industry. Among other business interests he is a stockholder in the Arendahl Creamery. Hr. Hill is a Republican and has been elected to serve in his community as director of the school board for three years. On April 1, 1879, he married Mary, daughter of Ole M. and Christie Berge. To this marriage have been born: Christina, who died June 6, 1910; Ada O., Ole B., Unie A. and John M.

Lars O. Benston, a well-known farmer residing in Arendahl township, was born at Modum's Prestegjeld, Norway, in 1866, son of Ole L. and Helena (Johnson) Benston, who came to America in the late sixties and settled in Arendahl township, where the father acquired land which he broke and prepared for cultivation, for some time carrying water a half mile each day up a steep bluff to his home. Lars O. grew to manhood in Arendahl township and attended the district school near home. Until twenty-eight years of age he was employed by his father, after which he worked out for a year and then rented some land and began farming on his own responsibility. He now owns the family homestead of 80 acres and an additional 80 acres in section twenty-seven, and also works another farm of 270 acres, on which he makes his home. He carries on general farming and raises pure bred Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. Mr. Benston votes the Republican ticket and has been elected to serve as chairman of the school board, also road overseer. He owns shares in the Peterson creamery and elevator. On March 14, 1895, Mr. Benston married Inga Stedje, and to them were born: Tilla A., Odin N., Laura E., Gerda S., Alfred J., and Inga Malvina L. Mrs. Inga (Stedje) Benston was a daughter of Nels E. and Martha (Henjum) Stedje. She died March 15, 1905. On November 27, 1907, Sofia, a sister of Mrs. Inga Benston, became the wife of the subject of this sketch, and to this marriage Martin Henry, Karen Mary and Martha Louise have been born.

A. R. Tungland, proprietor of the "Evergreen View" farm, has lived in Rushford township for nearly forty years. He was born in Norway September 27, 1852, and in 1873 sailed for America and came directly to Rushford by way of Quebec. After living for two years with a sister on Pine river, he went to Aren-

dahl, worked out for a time and later rented a farm, thus covering a period of about six years. He then bought a farm two miles south of the village of Peterson, where he lived and farmed for ten years. In 1881 he purchased his present valuable farm and moved to what has since been appropriately named "Evergreen View." He has equipped it well with the necessary implements and machinery and stocked it with live stock. He has a herd of 65 to 75 cattle, some of which are full blooded Shorthorns. He raises annually from 65 to 70 head of Poland China hogs, and keeps from 12 to 15 head of Percheron horses for farm work and driving. In 1905 he erected a large barn which is conveniently planned. His grounds are well kept and are artistically arranged with the evergreen trees and shrubs which first suggested the name of the home farm. Of the 240 acres in the entire farm, about 200 are under cultivation, and the whole work is handled by the proprietor and his family. He also owns 160 acres in Ward county, North Dakota, which he rents. In the Lutheran church, of which he is a member, he is assistant to the minister. In political inclinations he is a Republican, but has never cared for public office. He was for twelve years treasurer of school district 160 and is stockholder in the Farmers' Elevators, both at Rushford and Peterson. On the eleventh day of March, 1881, he was united in marriage with Gunhild Reishus, who proved a loving wife and mother, and to this union were born eleven children. The youngest died in infancy. Rudolph Edward now lives in South Dakota. Anna Gulina married Frank Manion. Aletta Tressa, Even Olavas, Minnie Johanna, Amos Gerhard, Emma Clarise, Mabel Josephine and Alice Gorgina are at home. Mary Olga married Antone Knudson, of South Dakota. Mrs. Gunhild (Reishus) Tungland died October 17, 1911.

Olaves J. Gaarder was born at Guardamon, Norway, January 16, 1850, son of John Olson and Berte M. (Larson) Gaarder and grandson of Jens and Martha Larson. When three years of age the subject of this sketch came to America with his parents and lived in LaFayette, Wis., four years. During the year 1857 the family removed to Minnesota and settled in Norway township, this county, where the father pre-empted a quarter section of land. This property was wild land and the father grubbed and cleared it and prepared it for cultivation. At the beginning of the struggle between the North and South the father enlisted, went south with his regiment, and served until the end of the war, after which he returned to his home and farm in Norway township. He died August 13, 1900, and the mother passed away April 15, 1910. Olaves J., the son, remained on the home farm with his father until he grew to manhood, and has vivid recollec-

tions of the hardships which they underwent during the first years of their residence in the county. He relates that his father went to Rushford with a hand sled for wheat, and that they melted snow to provide water for the stock. He also tells of the Indian scares. In 1872 Mr. Gaarder bought his present farm of 200 acres on sections twenty-four and twenty-five, Norway township. He engages in general farming, stock raising and dairying, disposing of dairy products to the Bratsburg creamery, in which he owns shares. Politically, he is affiliated with the Republican party and his fitness to serve in public office has been demonstrated by his being elected supervisor of the township for four successive years, director of school board many years, and pathmaster for a period of time. He is one of the stockholders in the Rushford Elevator Company, and has various other business interests. On January 18, 1872, he was united in marriage with Gustava Gudmansen, daughter of Hans and Ingeborg Gudmansen. To this marriage were born nine children, four of whom are now living: Nettie, who married Carl Jensen; Anna, the wife of Henry Beckman; Gena, now Mrs. Gunta Everland, and Ella.

**Ole Erickson Lardahl**, who owns a farm of 80 acres, located on sections twenty-three and twenty-six, Norway township, was born in Norway on March 14, 1847, son of Erick and Olava Lardahl, who spent their lives in the land of their birth. During the year of 1869 the subject of this sketch crossed the Atlantic to America and came west to Minnesota, where he was employed by various farmers in Fillmore county for several years. Being industrious and of economical habits, he managed to save from his earnings, and in 1882 purchased a farm. Here for twelve years he carried on agricultural pursuits, stockraising and dairying, and as the years went by he gradually improved his property and erected good buildings, developing one of the well kept places in the vicinity. He now rents the property to Christ Rustad, who works it on shares. In 1877 Mr. Lardahl married Sophia Gaarder, and they became parents of three children: Lena, Laura and Edward. Lena and Laura are married and Edward resides in North Dakota. Mrs. Lardahl entered into rest in 1889.

**Ole J. Overland**, Bratsburg's oldest business man, claims the distinction of being the first white child born in Norway township, and also of being the first child baptized in the congregation of the Highland Prairie Lutheran Church. He was born on September 25, 1854, son of Ole Overland. Ole Overland, the father, was the first pathmaster, it is said, in Norway township. He came to America in 1848, lived in Dane county, Wisconsin, five years, then stayed in Winneshiek county, Iowa, one

year, and in 1854 came to Minnesota and settled on sections fifteen and sixteen, Norway, where he spent the remainder of his long and useful life, his death occurring on Thanksgiving day, 1900. The subject of this biography was educated in the common schools of the county and later at the Rushford city schools, and worked on the home farm till twenty-four years of age. He then began life on his own responsibility and farmed till the spring of 1891. On March 27 of that year he, in company with his brother, opened a general merchandise business at Bratsburg, which has since been successfully continued. Eight years ago he purchased his brother's interest. He is now the sole owner, carrying a full stock of the goods needed by his patrons in the locality. Though busy with his mercantile business, he has long been interested in well bred horses. In 1892 he purchased a Clyde sire for \$2,500 and now owns a valuable Percheron sire, "Lothaer," of excellent pedigree. He is a member of the church in which he was first baptized. In politics, he has long been a local leader in the Republican party. For several years he was postmaster here, and continued till that office was abolished. He has been treasurer of the town for nineteen years and was a member of the school board in district thirteen for the same length of time. He was formerly president of the local creamery and was treasurer two years. In the autumn of 1878 he was united in marriage with Beta Myhrhagen and their marriage has been blessed with eleven children. Olaf is a machinist and lives at home. Tilla married George Ostad. Ginter is a farmer in Rushford township. Hannah married John Fossum, formerly a teacher. Marie married Edward Johnson, of Holt. Clara married Olaf Johnson, a restaurant keeper of Rushford. Hans is a helper in Bratsburg creamery. Selmer, Frances, Amanda and Benhart are at home.

**W. W. Webster**, whose woolen mill in Rushford is one of the leading industries of that place, was born in Lincoln, Ill., October 26, 1862, son of Matthew and Martha (Thompson) Webster, who came to America from Pudsey, Yorkshire, England. He was educated in the common schools of Minnesota and after completing his studies, went to work in his father's woolen mill, there learning the trade and preparing himself for the responsibilities of life. Until 1895 he was employed at LaCrescent, after which he came to Rushford and went in partnership with his uncle, Jonathan Webster, who had been operating a mill here since 1877. This partnership continued until 1904, during which year the subject of this sketch bought his uncle's interest and now conducts the business alone, manufacturing hosiery yarns, which are disposed of to various knitting mills. Since he has

become sole owner of the plant, he has made many needed improvements, enlarging the building, installing new machinery, and making the plant a modern concern. Mr. Webster was married November 27, 1883, to Susanna Gittens, born at LaCrescent, Minn., November 22, 1862, and they are the parents of six children: Archie, Donald, Gertrude, Walter, Madeline and Leo E. Mr. Webster is the present mayor of Rushford, an office which he has also previously occupied. He is likewise a member of the board of education and has filled all offices to which he has been elected with credit to himself and satisfaction to the general public. He is affiliated with the M. W. A. and is vice president of the Rushford Commercial Club.

Matthew and Martha (Thompson) Webster, parents of W. W. Webster, were born in Pudsey, Yorkshire, England, and there passed the early years of their lives. In company with his brothers and sisters, Matthew Webster came to America in 1855 and settled in Haysville, Ashland county, Ohio. From that town they went to Bloomington, Ill., by wagon, and in the spring of 1868 came to Minnesota, where Matthew and his brother Jonathan, with Thomas Fletcher, erected the Toledo Woolen Mills, located three miles from LaCrescent. The partnership continued until 1877, when Jonathan disposed of his interests and moved to Rushford. Matthew and Martha (Thompson) Webster were the parents of four children: Daniel, of LaCrescent; Annie, of South Dakota; W. W., of Rushford, and Emma, of Minneapolis. Matthew Webster died in 1893 and his wife in January, 1910.

Daniel and Ann (Dougherty) Gittens, parents of Mrs. Susanna (Gittens) Webster, came from Ireland to America about 1850, locating at Burlington, Vt. In 1856 they came west to LaCrescent, Minn., where Mr. Gittens took a homestead and engaged in agricultural pursuits, being among the settlers of Houston county, enduring all the hardships incident to the pioneer days, and there spending the balance of their life, Mr. Gittens dying December 25, 1906, and Mrs. Gittens, November 28, 1910. They were the parents of eight children; John, of North LaCrosse; Mary, Rose and Edward, deceased; Katherine and Theresa, of LaCrosse; Susanna, now Mrs. W. W. Webster, of Rushford; and Daniel, also deceased.

E. L. Sheldahl, one of Fillmore county's leading business men, was born in Hamilton county, Iowa, September 19, 1871, son of R. L. and Anna (Henderson) Sheldahl, the former of whom has carried on extensive farming operations near Pipestone, Minn., since 1886, and the latter of whom died in May, 1909. E. L., their son, the subject of this sketch, received his education in his native state, after which he engaged in farming

at Pipestone, Minn. In 1898 he moved to Spring Valley and successfully engaged in draying until 1909, when he sold out his business on account of poor health. He then accepted a position with the E. P. Davis & Co., and continued as manager of their poultry, egg and produce concern at Rushford for two years. He then purchased the business and is now sole owner and proprietor. He has a fully equipped plant, which, under his management, is without question the leading establishment of its kind in the county, doing from \$70,000 to \$75,000 worth of business annually, and shipping only in carload lots. His principal shipping points are Chicago, California, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York. Mr. Sheldahl served two years as a member of the city council while in Spring Valley, and is now serving his third term as a member of the council for the city of Rushford. He is a member of Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M., and Spring Valley Council, 1636, R. A. He has served in all the official chairs of that council, and was a delegate several times to the grand council. He is also a member of Chapter 262, M. W. A. of Spring Valley. Mr. Sheldahl is a thorough business man and is alert to every movement that tends to better the conditions of his town and county, having achieved his success by hard work and energy. Aside from his produce business, he has a large tract of farm land in North Dakota. He is a staunch Republican. On October 9, 1898, he was united in marriage to Josie Benson, and one son, Kenneth, born December 31, 1901, has blessed this union. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**John Eggen**, who for over forty years has been one of the representative citizens of the city of Rushford, and who has been actively engaged in business for nearly that period of time, was born in Thronthjen, Norway, September 29, 1848, son of Andreas and Beret (Burstad) Anderson. He received his education in the land of his birth, and there grew to manhood. In 1868 he left the shore of his native land and sailed across the Atlantic to establish for himself a home in a new and strange country, the trip consuming nine weeks and three days. Upon his arrival in the United States, Mr. Eggen proceeded west to Chicago, and thence to Grand Haven, Mich., where he was employed on railroad work for a period of two months. From Grand Haven he went to Muskegon, and there secured work in a sawmill for a period of three months, after which he moved to LaCrosse, Wis., remaining for a short time. He then moved to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minn., remaining there for a year and a half. In the spring of 1870 he came to the city of Rushford, where for three years he worked at his trade as carpenter.



About 1874 Mr. Eggen, together with his brother, Andrew, engaged in the manufacture of plows and wagons. This undertaking proved a great success and their wagons and plows became known far and wide for durability and service. They continued together in this business until 1892, when Mr. Eggen, the subject of this sketch, engaged in his present business on his own responsibility, taking in as a partner his son, Conrad. The firm name is now J. Eggen & Son. They handle a full and complete line of up-to-date farm machinery, wagons, automobiles, and do the leading business in the city along their line. Mr. Eggen is a man who aims to please; and by his untiring efforts, his far-sightedness and honest dealings, has won a host of friends throughout the community. He has ever taken an active interest in the affairs of his city, having served both on the city council and the board of education. On June 27, 1871, Mr. Eggen was united in the bonds of matrimony to Olena Emelia Colberg, a native of Norway, and their home has been blessed with eleven children: Alvilde Berntine, born April 18, 1872, died March, 1900; Alfred Julius, born September 29, 1873, died August 19, 1874; Alfred Julius, born August 6, 1875; Conrad Angel, born March 1, 1878; Ingvald Ambrosius, born December 17, 1879; Edward Amalie, born June 22, 1881, died July 27, 1881; John William, born June 7, 1882, died September 18, 1882; Daniel Ludvig, born June 4, 1883; Alice Christine, born April 19 1885, died September 7, 1885; Henry Edgar, born November 20, 1888, and Florence Leona, born October 20, 1890. Alfred married Olive Smith. They reside in British Columbia and are the parents of two children, Fred and Olive. Conrad is in partnership with his father. He married Carrie James. Ingvald Ambrosius resides at home. Daniel is a traveling salesman for the Western Grocery Company and resides in Dubuque, Iowa. He married Katie Arnold and they have two daughters, Mariam and Florence. Florence and Henry Edgar reside at home. Andreas Eggen, father of John Eggen, was born in 1807 and died at seventy-six years of age. Beret (Burstad) Eggen, the mother, was born in 1810, and died at seventy years of age. They were the parents of six children: Anders, a merchant at Throndjem, Norway, now deceased; Daniel, deceased; Andrew, of Rushford; Karen, now Mrs. Gjertinus Rangul, who, with her husband, has made several trips to America; John, of Rushford, and Albenus, deceased.

Haavel O. Anderson was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, April 6, 1854, son of Andrew and Bergeta Haalverson. In the year of 1855 the family moved to Minnesota and located on section twenty-one, Rushford, where they took a claim of 160 acres.



HAAVEL O. ANDERSON

Andrew, the father, the year after his arrival in the United States, became afflicted with weak eyes. That year he lost the entire sight of one eye, and in 1858 lost the sight of his other eye, being totally blind the rest of his life, causing the responsibilities of the farm to rest on the shoulders of his wife and family. He died in July, 1880, and his wife in July, 1890. Haavel O. attended the common schools of the locality, but because of his father's affliction he early in life assumed a man's responsibilities, taking charge of the home farm which he has since conducted. He has added to the original homestead until he now owns 280 acres in sections twenty-one and twenty-seven, Rushford. About 170 acres are under cultivation. Mr. Anderson is a general farmer, but gives much attention to his herd of 20 Shorthorn cattle. Formerly he kept a herd of Shropshire sheep, but has in recent years disposed of them. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican and has been town chairman two years, supervisor several years and director of school district number 17 for twelve years. He is president of the creamery and one of the board of directors of the Farmers' Elevator of Peterson. He is a member of Camp No. 232, Modern Woodmen of America of Rushford. Mr. Anderson was married July 23, 1886, to Josephine Hansen, of Highland Prairie, who died in 1891. To them were born seven children: Andrew is now in Montana; Howard is in Prosper, Minn.; Gentry, Carl and Otto are all at home; Joseph is in Dakota. May 25, 1910 Mr. Anderson was married to Josephine Larson, and to them has been born one child, Fred Herbert.

Edward Benson (Endru) is a native of Rushford township, where he still resides. He was born November 28, 1858, son of Benjamin and Helga Benson (Endru), who came from Norway in 1853 and settled in Houston county, Minnesota, where they lived until 1856. In the latter year they came to Rushford township, this county and took a claim where the father has since resided, the mother having died some years ago. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools and later in the Peterson village schools. He continued to work at home until he was twenty-one and then rented land for twelve years. In 1890 he bought 80 acres on section twenty-eight, where he has since lived. He recently erected a thoroughly modern and comfortable house, and has greatly improved the surrounding grounds until it is now one of the very attractive places in that locality. He follows general farming, keeps a herd of general purpose cattle and enough horses for his own use. He votes with the Republican party, but has never sought public offices. He is a member of the Highland Prairie church, where he was confirmed.

He was married in June, 1878, to Mary Thompson, and to them were born three children. Helga is now deceased. Adolph lives in Rushford. Gusta married Halver Flaten, of Norway township. In 1894 Mary (Thompson) Benson died. In 1897 Mr. Benson married Segne Norskog, a native of Norway, and to them has been born one child, Gudran, who is in school.

Christopher Benson (Endru) was born in Iowa, September 12, 1854, son of Benjamin and Helga Benson (Endru). He came, at an early age, with his parents, to this county and attended the common schools with more or less regularity until twenty-one years of age. He then continued to assist on the home farm until he was twenty-four years of age, after which he rented land for 12 years. In 1887 he bought 80 acres on section twenty-eight, Rushford, where he followed general farming with such success that he was able to add to his possessions until he now owns 160 acres in sections twenty-eight and thirty-three, 75 acres being under cultivation. He keeps a herd of from fifteen to twenty Durham cattle and sells cream to the Peterson creamery, where he is a stockholder. He also keeps four horses for farm and driving purposes. His home, located as it is on the brow of a knoll has a very pleasing setting, and this is enhanced by the neatness and care displayed in the keeping of the grounds and buildings. On July 10, 1879, Mr. Benson (Endru) married Ragnold Oian, and to them have been born eight children. Bent Ole is now a merchant in Peterson. Julia is deceased. Matilda Carina, Carl Roal, Thomas Elmer, Helma Otelia and Herman George are all at home. Oscar John, the fourth in order of birth, is in Montana. The family attends services at the Rushford Lutheran church. Mr. Benson (Endru) is a Republican, but has never cared for public offices.

Gunder Benson (Endru) was born in Houston county, Minnesota, February 22, 1857, son of Benjamin and Helga Benson (Endru). In 1856 he came to Fillmore county with his parents and here received his schooling in the common schools. Until he was twenty-two years of age he worked at home. When he first left home on his own responsibility he rented land for twelve years. In the meantime he saved enough money to buy 80 acres in section thirty-three and has since increased this to 160 acres, all in the same section.

His well kept farm and general appearance of his home indicate not only prosperity, but prosperity that is deserved by dint of hard work and careful management. He is a Republican in politics, but has been too busy with his own business to enter the field of active politics and seek public offices. He is a strong



ANDERS HENDRICKSON

worker for progress, especially along the line of betterment of conditions of farmers. He is a stockholder in the Peterson creamery and in the Farmer's Telephone Company. He is a member of the Lutheran church in Rushford. Mr. Benson has been twice married. On June 10, 1879, he married Margaret Oian, and to this union was born one child, Martin, now a farmer and land owner in Winona county. On May 18, 1884, Margaret (Oian) Benson died. On July 18, 1887, Mr. Benson married Bergite Oian, a sister of his first wife. To them have been born eight children. Minda Josephine is now Mrs. Oscar Holtegaard, of this county. Ole Benjamin, Helmer Theodore, George Edwin, Clara Galina, Hjelmer Bernhard and Ludwig Ingwald are all at home. One child, Helmer Johan, died in infancy.

Hans Hendrickson, deceased, was born in Norway November 7, 1850, and when three years of age was brought to the United States by his parents, who first settled in Houston county, Minnesota, for about two years, and later came to Rushford township. When about seventeen Hans stopped going to school and worked at home assisting his father, Anders Hendrickson. At the age of twenty-eight he started in life for himself and was very successful in his farming operations from the first. In 1899 he improved his land in section thirty-three, Rushford, by erecting one of the finest farm dwelling houses in the county, and this, together with the large barns, spacious buildings and full equipment, goes to make up an excellent place. In political ideas Mr. Hendrickson was a republican and held many responsible offices in the locality. Mr. Hendrickson died January 24, 1907, leaving to his family a good farm of 280 acres. By his wife, Maggie Anderson, whom he married in 1878, he had three children. Otto is now a farmer and lives in Wyoming. Cora is at home. Adolph, who is at present in charge of the home place, was born on the farm where he has since lived March 12, 1881. He was educated in the common schools and later in the Rushford graded and high schools, from which he graduated in 1903. He then assisted at home, and since his father's death has had charge of the family estate, which he is managing in a manner advantageous to all concerned. His mother and sister live with him.

D. T. Lunderberg, successful and prosperous farmer residing in Norway township, first saw the light of day in the southern part of Norway December 10, 1833, went to school in his native land, and there spent the early years of his life. When twenty-eight years of age he crossed the ocean to America, arriving in the United States on June 22, 1861, after which he proceeded

west to Minnesota and settled in Norway township, where for five years he was employed by different farmers. In 1866 he bought 80 acres of land and homesteaded 40 more, now owning 120, all of which he has improved and cultivated. Upon his arrival in this section he built a log house, in which he and his family lived until 1874, then moving into the frame home which he had completed. To this dwelling he has made additions from time to time, and it now is both commodious and comfortable. Mr. Lunderberg's cattle are of the Herford breed and his horse is Hamiltonian. He has a fine apple orchard which he set out in 1885 and which bears mostly Wealthy apples. He has for many years been identified with the Republican and Prohibition parties and has served as town supervisor for two years, also a member of the school board for one year. He and his family attend the Lutheran church and are esteemed members of that body. Mr. Lunderberg lives a practically retired life, renting his farm to his adopted son, Theodore. It is worthy of note that Mr. Lunderberg at ten years of age, in 1843, with his father started for America, but only got as far as France when, on account of lack of funds, they were obliged to return to Norway, where he remained until 1861. In May, 1860, he was united in marriage to Bergit Thorson, and to them was born one daughter, Ellen Maria, who resides at home. The wife and mother died November 4, 1864, and in February, 1868, Mr. Lunderberg married Ellen Mary Larson, who died December 31, 1905. Theodore, who conducts the home farm, married Otilia Amundson November 26, 1908.

**Svennom A. Byholt**, the genial merchant of Bratsburg, was born near the present site of his prosperous business house, August 20, 1861, son of Anders S. and Gunild (Dalalie) Byholt, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1852, located first in Wisconsin, where they lived one year, then moved to Decorah, Iowa, where they stayed the next year, and in 1854 came to Fillmore county and took a claim in Norway township, on which they erected a log house, later replacing it by a substantial frame dwelling, and laboring long and diligently to make their home attractive and their farm one of the best, the father dying in May, 1901, and the mother on September 9, 1908. Svennom A. Byholt received his schooling in the common schools and worked on the home farm. He had a liking for commercial life and in 1898 came to Bratsburg as clerk for the Norway Mercantile Company. He did well in that position and soon acquired a good knowledge of the concern. In 1905 he bought the store from the company and has since been sole proprietor of that prosperous and growing business. He handles a com-

plete line of general merchandise, such as is needed by his patrons, keeps on hand a stock of goods valued at from \$6,000 to \$7,000, and has made his store a model of order and neatness, owning not only the business and the stock, but likewise the buildings on the premises. He has now sold his farm and devotes all his time to the mercantile business. Mr. Byholt is a member of the Lutheran church of Highland Prairie. In political affairs of the locality he has long been a leader in the Republican organization. He has been town chairman five years, assessor two years, town clerk three years and clerk of school district No. 14 for eleven years. He for the past eight years has been treasurer of the creamery at Bratsburg. He was married in 1905 to Inger Ness and to them have been born three children, Gilma, Andrew and Walter.

**James Tenborg** was born in Albany, N. Y., November 11, 1856, son of Martin and Mary (Stage) Tenborg, with whom he came to Minnesota two years later. His father was a miller by trade and worked at this profession for many years after coming to this state, and he later entered the mercantile business, which he carried on for three years at Rushford, after which he went to South Dakota, where he spent the remainder of his life. The mother died in 1905. James, subject of this biography, was educated in the common schools of this county and after leaving school worked his father's farm in section two, Rushford township, where he now carries on farming operations. In 1877 he erected the fine brick dwelling which is still the family home, and he also made many other improvements. He owns 320 acres, all in section two, and of this farm, about 200 acres are under the plow. He raises Durham cattle for dairy purposes and sells cream to Rushford creamery, being a stockholder in that organization. He is an independent Democrat in political views and has served as director of school board in district 18 for eight years. Annie Schroeder, a native of Germany, became his wife in 1894, and they are parents of Martin Christina, John, Naomi, Fred, Garrett, Genevieve and Clifford. The members of the family belong to the Presbyterian church.

**James C. St. John**, who for twenty-five years has served in the capacity of school clerk in district 18, and has been trustee of Rushford village for four years, is a native of the Empire state, born in Chenango county, New York, October 7, 1851, son of Orson Edward and Abby (Park) St. John, the latter of whom died in New York in 1858. and the former of whom came to Minnesota in 1858, lived for six years in Winona county, and then came to Rushford township, where he spent the rest of his



life, his death occurring in June, 1904. James C., subject of this sketch, was given a common school education in New York, living for many years with an uncle. For five years after completing his schooling he worked out for different farmers in the vicinity. During the year of 1871, deciding to seek his fortune in the West, he accordingly came to Minnesota and settled on section nine, Rushford township, where he bought eighty acres, which he worked four years. Later, moving to section three, he carried on general farming there for seven years and then came to his present location on section two. He now owns 148 acres, of which fifty are under cultivation. He engages in general farming, stock raising and dairying, keeping twenty head of Short-horn cows for dairy purposes and disposing of cream to the Rushford creamery, of which he has been president four years. He keeps from twenty to thirty Duroc-Jersey hogs and about six good farm horses. Politically, Mr. St. John is an independent Republican, voting for principle rather than party. On December 29, 1867, he married Mary E. Pitkin of Broome county, New York, and to this marriage have been born.—Edward N., died in infancy. Clayton Edward is also dead. Alma Orilla is now wife of George Brunner and they have one child, Lawrence Myron. Edith May is the wife of William Brunner and they have two children, Gladys Mary and Russell St. John. Nellie May is dead. James Fayette is now a resident of Wyoming. Mrs. St. John entered into rest on January 16, 1905. The members of the family belong to the Presbyterian church.

**S. T. Swenson** was born in Stavanger, Norway, November 6, 1855, son of Tobias and Annie Swenson. In 1872 he came to the United States via Quebec and located in Illinois one year. In 1873 he came to this county and worked on a farm for his father until 1880, and then rented land a few years. In 1887 he purchased land in section eight, Rushford, and has added to this from time to time till he now has 200 acres, a large part of which is under cultivation, and on which he follows general farming, with considerable attention to stockraising. He prefers the Hereford cattle, of which he has from twenty-five to thirty head. He also keeps about 20 head of sheep, raises from 25 to 50 Poland China hogs annually and keeps a sufficient number of horses for farm and driving, usually from five to ten head. Mr. Swenson is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican, and though active in public movements, he has never sought public office. He has, however, served two years as supervisor and has been many years on the local school board. On February 23, 1880, he married Mary Torggrimson, of Rushford, and to this union have been born six children. Alfred and Thomas are



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES DRAKE

in Canada, where their father owns a quarter section of land which he bought some years ago. Alfred married Mary Rud and now lives in Canada. Mollie, Martha, Samuel and Barney are all at home.

Charles Drake was born April 28, 1838, at Eythome, Kent county, England, and in the fall of 1855 crossed the Atlantic to seek his fortune in this country. He located near Fairwater, Wis., and first turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, but shortly after determined to learn a trade, and became an apprentice in a harness shop at Ripon, Wis. Endowed with energy and push he rapidly mastered the details of the business and accepted a position with a prominent harness manufacturer at Waupun, where he remained two years and then returned to Fairwater, where he opened a shop of his own. In the early sixties he came to this state and, in company with a partner, engaged in the harness business at Rochester. Having heard a favorable report of Rushford he drove down here in April of 1866 with a view of locating. Though the railroad had not yet reached here and goods had to be hauled by team from Winona and La Crosse he was favorably impressed and decided to establish himself here. By careful attention to business he succeeded in building up one of the largest harness manufacturing establishments in this section. For a time he operated a branch house at Lanesboro, but finally concentrated his efforts on the home enterprise. After moving into his handsome new brick block in 1896 he associated with him his eldest son, W. F., and continued the business under the firm name of C. Drake & Son. Thus he rounded out thirty-seven years of active business life in this city, sharing all the duties and responsibilities of a good citizen. June 24, 1866, he was married to Jane Hargrave at Ripon, Wis. Six children were born to them, four sons and two daughters of whom three sons survive: W. Frank and Ralph Drake, of Rushford, and Dr. F. A. Drake, of Lanesboro.

Mr. Drake was raised to the degree of a master mason by Mystic Star Lodge, No. 69, June 1, 1871, and remained an esteemed and honored brother up to the time of his death, May 7, 1903, having filled in turn every office in the lodge from tyler to senior warden. Though dead his memory will be cherished in loving remembrance by all who knew him.

F. A. Drake, M. D., a successful physician and surgeon of Lanesboro, was born in Rushford in July, 1870, son of Charles and Jane (Hargrave) Drake. After due preparation he entered the University of Minnesota and graduated from the medical course in 1896. Then he spent a year as a hospital interne at

St. Paul, since which time he has been located in Lanesboro, where he has built up a large practice. He has affiliated himself with the usual medical associations, and belongs to the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen. He married Nellie Rafferty and they have two children: Donald O. and Charles O.

**Peter O. Vogen**, of Rushford, was born in Norway on December 13, 1854, and when ten years of age came to America with his father, who was a sailor. For the first ten years of their residence in Minnesota they lived in Preble township, later moving to Rushford on section six, where the father died in 1897, the mother having passed away in 1887. Peter O., attended school both in his native land and in this country, and until eighteen years of age remained on the home farm working with his father. In 1872 he started for himself and was employed by different farmers in the community, after which he rented some land which he operated for three years. In 1886 he bought 80 acres in section six, Rushford, now owning 120 acres, 40 of which are in Arendahl township. Mr. Vogen follows general farming, raises Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and owns seven blooded Percheron horses. Though independent in political views, he has been prominently identified with public offices, having served as trustee of Rushford for three years, chairman of the school board in district 160 for six years and path master for nine years, reflecting credit to himself in these various offices. Mr. Vogen has also been trustee of the Lutheran church, of which he has long been an active member. He is a member of the board of directors of the Peterson Elevator and Creamery and has various other business interests in both town and county. In May, 1879, Mr. Vogen married Anna Waxland, daughter of Gunder Waxland, now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Vogen are parents of Karen Marie, now Mrs. John P. Nelson, of Wilmar, Minn.; Gustave Andrew, of Freemont; Ole Emil, of Goodhue county; Selma Karina, at home; Ingman Cornelius, a student in Rushford; Carl Bertineus, attending school in Austin; Oscar Eugene and Peter Alvin, at home.

**John L. Ostrem** was born in Minnesota January 14, 1861, son of Lars Ostrem. He obtained a common school education and worked for various farmers until his marriage. Then he went to North Dakota and farmed there about sixteen years. In 1902 he came back to Minnesota, and in 1905 bought a farm of 240 acres in section twenty, Arendahl, where he carried on general farming. He was honored by his fellow citizens and served for some time as road overseer. Mr. Ostrem died November 20, 1900, and his widow and children are now conducting the farm.

The subject of this sketch was married in 1886 to Annie Ulvestad, daughter of M. O. Ulvestad, and they have six children: Martin, Lewis, Oscar, Henry, Adolph and Julia M.

**Lewis C. Opperud**, blacksmith, was born in Amherst township, April 7, 1877, son of Martin and Annie Opperud, natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1875 and settled in Amherst township. There the father worked as a carpenter for three years. Then he opened a blacksmith shop in Amherst township, which he continued until 1903, when he moved to Highland village, and purchased a blacksmith shop there in partnership with his son, Lewis C. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools, and remained at home until his marriage, on May 8, 1902, to Annie Ellingson. This union has been blessed with three children: Alma, Ella and Raymond.

**C. C. Madson**, progressive and energetic citizen of Lanesboro village, was born in Denmark January 29, 1877, son of Peter Madson. He came to America in 1894 and worked a year as a buttermaker at Alden, Freeborn county, this state. Then he was similarly employed six years in Flandreau, S. D., being a part owner of the concern for two years. The plant being destroyed by fire he moved to Egen, S. D., and there followed his trade about three years. During his period of employment there Mr. Madson met with a serious accident while trying to adjust a belt, and this incapacitated him from work for a year and four months. Later coming to Fillmore county he settled at Pilot Mound, where he bought a cheese factory, which he converted into a creamery, where he engaged in business for some time. In 1908 he moved to Lanesboro and since that time has operated a first-class creamery and ice cream plant. Of an ingenious mind, Mr. Madson has recently patented a convenient ice can for conveying cream to market, and he is ever on the alert for improvements in his business, which is steadily increasing. Fraternally Mr. Madson is affiliated with the Masonic lodge and the M. B. A. He married Ida Engelke, and to them have been born two children: Lucella and Carlyle.

**Arthur J. Johnson**, a farmer residing in Pilot Mound township, first saw the light of day in Chicago in 1883, son of Peter and Augusta Johnson, natives of Norway. He was given a common school education, and when twenty-seven years of age came to Minnesota and rented a farm in Pilot Mound from Mrs. O. Svensrud. Here he has since carried on general farming operations and engaged in raising graded Shorthorn cattle, Chester White hogs, graded sheep, turkeys and other fowls. Mr. Johnson is an

energetic and hard working man and his business principles and many good qualities have won for him a high place in the regard of his fellow citizens. On December 14, 1910, he married Lizzie Larson Svensrud, daughter of Ole Larson and Bertha (Johansdotter) Svensrud.

**Anton Jacobson**, a progressive farmer of Pilot Mound, was born in Chatfield township in 1870, son of Ole and Mattie (Danielson) Jacobson, natives of Norway, the former of whom, a shoemaker by trade, came to America in 1844 and settled in Pilot Mound, where he rented a farm, two years later going to Chatfield, and there purchasing wild land which had to be grubbed and broken. Anton, the subject of this biography, acquired a common school education and worked on the home farm with his father until the latter's death, after which he purchased the old homestead, and continued farming industries there until 1900. After several changes he bought his present farm of 155 acres on section 7, Pilot Mound, where he carries on general diversified farming and raises Shorthorn cattle for dairy purposes. In 1909 he had the misfortune to lose nearly all his live stock. In political views Mr. Jacobson is a Republican and he has served in minor offices in his township. He married Hanna Thrulson October 21, 1895, daughter of Ole and Annie (Iverson) Thrulson, and to this union nine children have been born. The living are: Alice Odeana, Melvin Olivia, Henry Elmer, John Edward, Clarence Ingwald, Nora Aleda and Lewis Marvin. The family attends the United Lutheran church, and is respected throughout the community.

**Grant E. Bainter**, progressive citizen and successful farmer of Pilot Mound, was born in Missouri in 1869, son of James and Elizabeth (Stoltz) Bainter, natives of Germany, who came to America, located in Indiana, later moved to Missouri, and eventually went to Nebraska, where the father homesteaded a ranch and operated a general store. Grant E. came to Chatfield in 1889, worked as a buttermaker until 1905, and then rented a farm for three years, after which he bought his present place of 143 acres in sections 28 and 33, where he carries on a general farming and raises Polled Angus cattle, Poland China hogs and Norman-Percheron draft horses. He has made many improvements on his farm, is at present erecting a fine new residence, the lumber for which he has sawed by himself from trees on his farm. His place is considered one of the most fertile and highly productive in the vicinity. Mr. Bainter is a Republican in his political opinions, though never an office seeker. He was married October 22, 1901, to Elizabeth, daughter of Martin and Mary Ahern, and they have

one child, Evelyn Monica. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. The Bainters are highly respected throughout the community.

**Olaves N. Thorson**, representative citizen of Pilot Mound, was born in that township in 1866, son of Nels and Ingebor (Raisa) Thorson, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1858 and were married a year later. Olaves N. was educated in the common schools of Pilot Mound, and spent his youth working for his father. In 1889 he began operating the home farm on shares and continued this arrangement until 1906, then purchasing 180 acres in sections 31 and 32, where he carries on general farming and raises Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep, Norman-Percheron draft horses and many hogs. Politically, he is affiliated with the Republican party, and has held the office of road overseer for three terms. He was married December 19, 1894, to Mary Johnson, daughter of John and Anne (Lien) Johnson, and they have two children: Eva A. and Nelva J. Mr. Thorson's mother, now aged 86 years, resides with him. The family faith is that of the United Lutheran church.

**Carl C. Egge**, deceased, was born in Lehr, Norway, in 1835, son of Cornelius and Christina (Thorstad) Egge, the former of whom died in his home country and the latter of whom came to America in 1871. Carl C. was educated in the common schools of Norway and in 1862 crossed the Atlantic to America. Upon his arrival in this country he proceeded west to Wisconsin, where he soon enlisted to fight for the preservation of the Union. At the close of the war, he returned to Wisconsin and engaged in general farming. In 1866 he decided to seek his fortune in Minnesota and came to Pilot Mound, this county, where he bought a farm and carried on agricultural industries. As time passed and his hard work and good management resulted in prosperity, he added to his original holdings, and eventually became the owner of 255 acres, which was divided among his widow and children after his death, January 14, 1902, the widow receiving the old homestead and 80 acres. Mr. Egge served in several public offices during his life, being town pathmaster and treasurer and director of the school board. He was married October 19, 1866, to Gunild Bergsrud, daughter of Gulbrand and Carrie (Stoverson) Bergsrud. This union was blessed with Christian G., William C. and Caroline C. Christian G. married Hilda Christopherson, who died July 20, 1907, leaving two sons, Carl Henry and George Arnold. He has purchased the interests of the other heirs, and owns about 280 acres in sections 20 and 21 which he operates in addition to the homestead owned by his

mother, with whom he makes his home. William C. married Dea Strom and they are the parents of twins: Genevieve and Mildred. Caroline C. married Edward Erickson Odegarden, and they have four children.

Edward Erickson Odegarden was born in Fillmore county in 1868, son of Ole E. Odegarden. When a boy the subject of this biography went to the country school winters and worked on the home farm during the summer months. In 1899 he moved to Fountain and there was employed by various carpenters, also working as a thresher during the autumn months. In 1903 he bought a farm in partnership with William Egge. Later he bought Mr. Egge's interest, and now owns the 160 acres in section 16, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. He owns a pure bred Black Polled sire, graded cattle and several horses. As a member of the Republican party Mr. Odegarden has served as treasurer of the school board, and also as pathmaster for two terms. He is a member of the United Lutheran church and contributes toward the support of that body. Caroline C. Egge, daughter of Carl C. and Gunild (Bergsrud) Egge became his wife on May 17, 1897. They are parents of four children, Gunild Leonora, born July 7, 1899; Carl Olaus, born August 31, 1901; Evelyn Cecelia, born August 4, 1903, and Oneta Amanda, born October 31, 1906. One child died in infancy. The new house which now stands on Mr. Odegarden's place was erected from lumber grown on the farm.

John E. Rain is a native of Pilot Mound township, born in 1872, son of Ingebret Ingebretson and Anna (Hall) Rain, who came to this country from Norway in the early fifties and homesteaded a farm in Pilot Mound, where they underwent many hardships and privations, carrying water up the steep bluffs twice a day and grubbing and breaking the wild land, here spending the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1881 and the mother in 1907. John E. spent the years of his boyhood as does the average farm boy, attended school winters and worked on the home farm during the spring and summer months. In 1883 he went to North Dakota with his brother, Edward. In 1885 he went to St. Paul and worked with a veterinary surgeon for several years. In 1887 he returned to Pilot Mound and assumed charge of the home farm for his mother, operating this property on shares. Later he bought out the shares of the other heirs and now owns 240 acres in sections 27, 32 and 33. He carries on diversified farming, owns a registered Durham sire named Prince, raises pure bred cattle, Poland China and Red hogs, keeps about 100 Plymouth Rock and White Leghorn chickens and



disposes of about 100 chickens and 700 dozen eggs annually. Mr. Rain is a member of the Republican party and has served in various public offices in his township, having been elected president of the school board for three years and pathmaster for six terms. He has been president of the board of trustees of Root Prairie church for three years. On March 30, 1892, Anna, daughter of Ingebret N. and Anna (Docken) Moen became his wife and their marriage has been blessed with five children: Emil, Alice, Esther, Alfa and Jasper. The devoted wife and mother was summoned by death on February 2, 1911.

**Theodore E. Sorenson**, who has represented the interests of citizens of Pilot Mound township and Fillmore county in various responsible public offices, is one of the prominent and greatly esteemed men in the community. He was born at Fossum, Norway, in 1854, son of Erick and Irene Sophia (Lunda) Sorenson, natives of that country. Erick Sorenson came to America in 1868 and settled in Pilot Mound, where he took land, which had to be grubbed and broken and which had no convenient water supply. For two years after coming to this country Erick worked for the railroad, putting through a new extension from Lanesboro, west. By his wife, Irene Sophia, he had five children: Theodore E., Christian, Irene, Isabelle, now deceased, and Ernest. Theodore E. was given a common school education and after attaining his majority went to work for different farmers near his home. In time he rented a farm, which he operated on shares for some time. In 1882, in partnership with his brother, Christian, he bought 140 acres in section 17, Pilot Mound, and 20 acres in Chatfield township. Four years later he purchased his brother's interests. As time has passed and he has grown prosperous, he has added to his original holdings, now owning 277 acres, on which he conducts general farming, making a specialty of raising pure bred Shorthorn cattle. He owns five blooded Shorthorn sires, one of which is registered, and many of his cows are eligible to registration. He also raises Duroc-Jersey hogs and disposes of about seventy-five annually. He keeps ten good horses for farm purposes. Politically a staunch Republican, Mr. Sorenson has occupied various offices, having been county commissioner four years, town chairman one year, pathmaster for nine years, constable for four years, and assessor for one year, giving general satisfaction in all positions which he held. He owns shares in the Nelson Land Company of Lanesboro, and is a licensed auctioneer. For a time he was partner in the hardware business with J. M. Carlson, but eventually disposed of his interests. Mr. Sorenson has ever taken an active part in all movements toward the betterment of conditions of his chosen

church. He was at one time foreman of the Root Prairie and North Prairie congregations, and since their separation has been foreman of the Pilot Mound congregation. He has also been chairman of the building committee. On November 3, 1886, Mr. Sorenson was united in marriage with Rachel Carlson, daughter of John and Susan (Sorenson) Carlson. This marriage has been blessed with two children: Clarence Alfred and Estella Josephine. Estella married Christian Overby and lives in Cherry Grove township. Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson are members of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

Ole Skrukruud was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, October 22, 1827, and at the age of twenty-two years, when Norway was aiding Denmark in the struggle with Germany, enlisted in the Norwegian army, remaining in the service for ten years. In 1856 he was married to Engebor Romsos, who was born June 22, 1828, in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway. In 1857 he bought his father's homestead, remaining there until the spring of 1866, when he came to America, leaving his family in Norway. Selling their home and property there in 1867, Mrs. Skrukruud, accompanied by five small children, left to join her husband, who had prepared a new home for them in Pilot Mound township, Fillmore county, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Skrukruud had seven children, five of whom are now living. Ole, Anton, Eli, Mathias and Olaf were born in Norway and Engebret and Marie in America. Eli, who died in 1894, was married to Thor Redalen of this county and lived on a farm in Carrolton township. Ole is also dead. Anton is living on a farm in Renville county. He married Anna Kolstad. Mathias married to Anna Skrukruud and Engebret married to Sophia Erickson, are farmers of Pilot Mound township. Olaf, who is married to Olivia Redalen, resides at Lanesboro. Mr. Skrukruud lived on his farm in Pilot Mound township until 1891, when he moved to Lanesboro, where he at present resides, his daughter Marie living with him. Mrs. Skrukruud died in 1906.

M. O. Skrukruud was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1864. In 1867 he came to America with his parents, who settled in Pilot Mound township. He worked for his father until twenty-four years old, when he rented his father's farm for three years on shares. In 1894 he bought 96 acres of land and eighty more in 1900, being now the owner of 176 acres in sections 13, 14 and 22, on which he is engaged in general farming. Mr. Skrukruud is a member of the United Lutheran church of Pilot Mound. He is now serving his second term as member of the board of supervisors and has served two terms each as school director and pathmaster. He is a stockholder in the Peterson

Farmers' Elevator. On June 10, 1890, he was married to Anna Skrukrud, who was born in Pilot Mound in 1871. Their children are Ida Rose, Clara Otilia, Elmira Oreana, Odin Milliard, Mabel Evelyn, Morilla Alvilda, Eugene Kenneth and Lillian Estella. Ida Rose is a graduate of Lanesboro high school and is teaching her second year in district 159, Pilot Mound. Clara Otilia is attending high school at Lanesboro.

**Engebret O. Skrukrud**, who owns 383 acres of valuable land on sections 21 and 22, Pilot Mound township, and is one of the progressive farmers in that vicinity, was born in this township in 1869, son of Ole and Engebor (Romsos) Skrukrud. When a boy he attended the district school and there acquired his education, remaining with his father on the home farm until twenty-four years of age, then going to Griggs county, North Dakota, for ten months. Then he lived at home for something over a year. For five years he operated the farm on which he now lives and then bought it, since which time he has carried on his life's chosen occupation with marked success. He raises Shorthorn cattle, hogs, horses and fowls, and makes a specialty of the latter, annually selling about 75 chickens and about 650 dozen eggs. Politically he is united with the Republican party and has served as supervisor of the town board for three years, also as pathmaster for several years. He is a member of the board of directors of the Lanesboro & Pilot Mound Telephone Co. On June 10, 1908, Mr. Skrukrud was united in marriage to Sophia, daughter of Torger and Martha (Peterson) Erickson. The family attends the United Lutheran Church, and is respected throughout the community.

**Ole P. Paulson**, progressive farmer and native of Pilot Mound township, was born September 8, 1866, son of Peder and Marit Paulson, who came to America from Norway in 1866 and settled in Pilot Mound, moving two years later to Fountain, where they resided until 1873, during which year they returned to Pilot Mound and bought the farm now owned by Ole P. The subject of this biography was educated in the common schools of the county and worked on the home farm for his father until the latter's death in 1897, when he became owner of the old homestead of 192 acres, on sections 22 and 27, where he carries on general farming, stock raising and dairying. In political opinions Mr. Paulson is a Republican. He has served as pathmaster for three terms, and at present is treasurer of the school board, which office he has acceptably filled for two years. He was married January 29, 1901, to Anna Carolina Paulson, born February 28, 1877, daughter of Knut and Matilda (Lerberg) Paulson,

of Fountain township, on January 29, 1901. To Mr. and Mrs. Paulson three children have been born, Mabel Tena, born January 5, 1902; Coela Perletta, born June 23, 1904, and Clarence Raymond, born April 1, 1907. The family attends the United Luthern church and stands well in the community.

**Andrew H. Holt** was born in Norway, March 25, 1862, son of Hans and Maria Holt. He came to this country in 1887, lived five months in Chicago, and then went to La Crosse, Wis., where he lived eight years, employed in a sawmill and as a carpenter. In 1895 he came to Holt township and worked at his trade until 1902, when he bought his present farm of forty acres on section 21, which he now rents on shares to S. Hanson. Mr. Holt is a Republican in politics, and was road overseer one term. He was married July 23, 1896, to Christina Ramsey, born in Norway, March 27, 1861, daughter of Botolf and Gertrude Ramsey. She died November 8, 1909. The family faith is that of the United Lutheran church.

**Ole Wilson** was born in lower Telmarken, Norway, October 14, 1836, son of William and Turi Wilson. He was educated in Norway, and in 1852 came to America and took up his residence with his grandfather, Emilie Olson, who owned a farm in Otsego township, Columbia county, Wis. He worked as a farm hand for a while, and then started working farms on shares. After living in Wisconsin for fifteen years he came to Holt township in 1867 and bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 12, which he broke and improved, and where he now carries on general farming. He was married November 18, 1870, to Annie Hansou, born in Upper Telmarken, Norway. They have had four children, Susan (died when eleven months old), Hans Andrew, Olaus and Halvor Martinus. Mr. Wilson had a most interesting experience with the Indians. In 1855 some twenty Indians called at the farm and demanded food, and when this was given them demanded that Mr. Wilson assist them in carrying it to camp. Two of the Indians were intoxicated, and tried to stab him with a knife, but some of the more friendly of the savages saved his life.

**Fred Johnson** was born in Newburg township July 23, 1882, son of Mathia and Ellen Johnson, who were born in Norway, came to the United States, lived in Iowa twelve years, then came to this county, lived in Newburg township for awhile, and finally came to section 23, Holt township, and rented 120 acres. The father died in 1908, and the mother now lives with Fred, who rents the same farm from N. H. Nepstad. Fred was educated in

the country schools, and has since devoted his time to agricultural pursuits, having lived on the same place for the past twenty years. He owns considerable live stock and good machinery, and is a hard working young man. He votes the Republican ticket. Mr. Johnson is one of three sons, his brothers being Gustave and Adolph.

**Charles E. Pierce** was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, May 30, 1851, son of Oliver and Julia Pierce, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1849, settled in Wisconsin, and lived there until 1853, when they came to Rushford in this county, and pre-empted a quarter section of wild land, which they broke and developed. In 1882 the father sold out and went west. Charles E. stayed on the home farm until his mother's death. Then he worked as a farm hand, and later started renting land on his own responsibility. In 1906 he rented his present farm from W. D. Culbertson, the place consisting of 120 acres in sections 10, 15 and 16. Mr. Pierce owns his equipment and also considerable stock. Aside from the usual lines of general farming he raises some tobacco, and has been very successful in bee culture. He is a Republican in politics, and attends the United Lutheran church. Mr. Pierce was married September 26, 1885, to Anna Olson, born in Norway, and of their seven children five are living. They are: Oliver, born in 1884; Gena, born in 1887; Edwin, born in 1892; Petrina, born in 1897; and Amand, born in 1900.

**Torvald Sveen** was born in Arendahl township in 1883, son of Tostern and Ingebor Sveen, natives of Norway, who came to this county in the early days and homesteaded land in section 26, Arendahl. Torvald received a common school education and early in life began to assist his father with the farm work. During the year of 1911 he purchased the home property, which comprises 200 acres located in section 26. Mr. Sveen engages in general dairy farming and raises Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, and poultry. Being of industrious habits he has gradually made many improvements on his farm and its well kept condition is an evidence of his energy and ambition. Politically, Mr. Sveen is a Prohibitionist, but his many duties on the farm have prevented his seeking public office. On September 10, 1910, he married Carrie Larson and they are the parents of Irene Tomine. The family attends the United Lutheran church at Peterson.

**Abraham C. Jensen** was born near Stavanger, Norway, December 12, 1836, son of Jens C. and Gulecker Maria Jensen. The father died in the old country, and the mother came to America in 1862 with Abraham C. and his family. After settling in Holt

township, this county, Mr. Jensen took a claim of forty acres of wild land. Seven years later he sold this claim and purchased some land, which he afterward sold to his son, Rasmus. Then he went to Peterson, purchased a house, and worked as a mason two years. Then he sold the house and bought a small farm near his son Rasmus. Here he lived for twenty years. In 1912 he sold the place and moved to Highland, where he now lives. Mr. Jensen was first married in 1848 to Mary Utsolie. Three children were born, Christian, Carrie and Ingman. After his first wife's death Mr. Jensen married Mrs. Annie Rasmussen, and they have three children: Rasmus, Mike and Jacob. Before her marriage to Mr. Jensen Mrs. Rasmussen had three children by her former husband, Ole, Rebecca and Isabel.

**Ole L. Strande**, a progressive farmer of Arendahl township, was born in Norway in 1880, son of Ludvik and Meta (Larson) Strande. He received his education in the common schools of his native land and came to America during 1900, locating in Arendahl township. Later he went to Winona county, where he remained six and a half years. Then he returned to Arendahl, where he has since made his home. He rents 180 acres from Charles A. Harstad, for cash, and operates the Moen farm of 180 acres in section 9. The horses, swine, Shorthorn cattle and other domestic animals on the place are his own property. He is a stockholder in the Arendahl creamery and owns a farm of 160 acres in Harding county, S. D. He is a Republican in politics. On November 22, 1904, Alettha, daughter of Guttorm and Marget (Jacobson) Gutterson, became his wife, and to this marriage have been born: Leonard Merton, Gyda Madeline and Orville Andrew. The family attends the United Lutheran church and assists with the support of that organization.

**Hans H. Rud**, a prosperous farmer of Arendahl township, was born in Norway in 1864, son of H. K. and Helga (Olstadter) Rud. H. K. Rud came to this country in 1864 and Hans H. Rud two years later. In 1870 they returned to the old country. After spending three years at home Hans H. again crossed the ocean to America and settled in Wisconsin, after which, in 1875, he came to Minnesota and located in Norway township. For some time he secured employment of the various farmers in the township, but in 1877 went to North Dakota, there remaining for twelve years, engaged in horse dealing. He has also had various other experiences, including six years' management of a hotel at Peterson, and now owns a farm of 120 acres in section 24, Arendahl, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a stockholder in the Arendahl creamery and elevator and

has other business interests. He affiliates with the Republican party, but has never sought public office. On March 25, 1891, Mr. Rud married Amanda R. Jackson, and they are the parents of Hilda A., Alfred H., Oscar, Eda L., Selma M., Reuben I., Walter, Alice H., and James A. The family attends the United Lutheran church and contributes to its support.

**Halver G. Anderson** was born in Rushford on New Year's day, 1875, son of Gout and Annie Anderson, who are among the oldest living residents of this locality. He received his early education in the common schools, but when about fourteen years of age, being able to do a man's work, he left school to assist his father on the home farm. When twenty-three years of age he rented land, and three years later bought his present farm of 160 acres in section 36, Rushford township, where he follows general farming, having ninety acres under cultivation. He keeps from 15 to 20 head of good dairy cows and raises from 25 to 40 hogs annually. He also keeps six horses for general purposes. Mr. Anderson is one of the few men in this township who still live in a log house. He has a particular liking for it, however, and hopes to use it many years longer. Mr. Anderson is a stockholder in the Rushford creamery and in the Farmers' elevator at Rushford. He is a Republican in political views and has been school clerk of district 154 for some years, a position he still occupies. In January, 1898, he was united in marriage with Gena Holgee, of Houston county. This marriage has been blessed with eight children, three of whom died in early youth. Ada, George, Elmer Ernest and Howard are all at home. The two youngest are twins. The family worships at the Rushford Lutheran church.

**Martin Brennan** came to America with his father, his mother having died in Ireland. Some time after their arrival in this country the father and son lived in Kingston, New York, after which they came to Minnesota and settled in Chatfield township. Martin Brennan soon after left Chatfield and secured employment on the Mississippi, working on the levees for two winters, after which he returned to his former home and engaged in agricultural pursuits in Chatfield township and there lived for the balance of his days. He passed away June, 1904, and his widow, who was Mary Ryan, now resides in Chatfield village.

**B. C. Benson** was born in Fillmore county in 1881, son of Christopher and Rachel (Oyan) Benson, the former of whom was born in America and the latter in Norway. B. C. acquired his education in the schools of the county and for some time after leaving school assisted his father on the home farm. At the age

of eighteen he started to learn the carpenters' trade at Peterson. During the month of November, 1911, he purchased a half interest in the general store in Peterson from E. T. Erickson. His industrious habits and good business sense are valuable assets and it is generally conceded that he will continue to be one of the successful men of Fillmore county. On October 3, 1905, Mr. Benson married Cora Evenson, daughter of Teman and Bela (Erickson) Evenson, and they have two children, Clifford and Earl.

**William Brennan**, successful and progressive farmer of Carrolton township, was born in Chatfield township, this county, September 9, 1866, son of Martin and Mary (Ryan) Brennan. He attended the common schools and grew to manhood on his father's farm, thus fitting himself for agricultural pursuits. In 1890 he moved to his present home on section 18, Carrolton township, where he now owns a half section of land, on which he follows general diversified farming. He has erected a comfortable modern dwelling, commodious barns and outbuildings, and has greatly improved and beautified the place, the neat appearance of the surroundings speaking well of his thrift and enterprise. Fraternally Mr. Brennan is affiliated with the M. W. A. He is treasurer of school district No. 51. In February, 1890, he was married to Margaret Ruddy, and to this union nine children have been born: Paul M., Martin C., Lucile E., Nellie C., John C., Joseph, Mary, William and Raymond. Mr. Brennan has one brother, John, of Stewartville, Minnesota. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

**Carl A. Smaby**, editor and publisher, was born in Peterson on Christmas day, 1884, son of Andrew and Martha Smaby, who came to America from Norway in the early days of settlement in this county, and located in Peterson. Carl A. was educated in the common schools of the township and learned the printers' trade in Rushford, where he was employed from 1902 until 1909. During the latter year he returned to his home in Peterson and established a weekly paper, known as the "Peterson Herald." Although several had failed in their attempts at starting a Peterson paper, Mr. Smaby was successful and secured a good list of patrons. Being of an energetic temperament and blessed with endless ambition, the subject of this biography has taken an active interest in all movements which have tended toward the advancement and improvement of his town and county. He has been secretary of Peterson Commercial Club and has done good service as justice of the peace. He is both popular and progressive and is recognized as possessing keen business sense and



marked ability in his chosen profession. He married Clara Lomen, daughter of Amund Lomen, and two children have come to bless their home: Glen Harold and June Mildred.

**Edward Treaugen**, who is now operating the A. A. Bolles farm of 130 acres in Preble township, was born in Houston county, where he first saw the light of day May 7, 1869, son of Ole and Ruth Treaugen, who came to America from Norway in 1867, and after an interval of three years, during which the father worked at his trade as carpenter, purchased the farm where Edward was born. Edward received his education in the district schools and remained at home until 21 years of age. Then, after working as a farm hand awhile, he rented land on his own responsibility. In 1897 he went to South Dakota and did mason work. Returning to Minnesota the following year, he worked for various farmers. Since 1906 he has rented property. He owns his machinery and stock and gives his best efforts to making a success of his chosen occupation. Politically he is a Republican. He is a member of the United Lutheran church. June 26, 1907, he married Cora Anderson, born in Norway January 15, 1880. To Mr. and Mrs. Treaugen has been born a daughter, Gladys Rosella, September 20, 1908.

**Bernhard Viken**, of Preble township, was born in Norway July 18, 1880, son of Christian and Mary Viken, the former of whom died in Norway and the latter of whom is still living there. Bernhard was given a common school education and taught himself the English language. In 1903 he came to America and was employed for a time in Canton township, this county. He now rents the C. G. Westby farm of 270 acres, and pays cash, having his own equipment and stock. He does general farming and keeps about 45 head of cattle, 18 hogs and 9 horses. He is a Republican in his political opinions, but never an office seeker. In March, 1903, he married Petra Gutberg, born in 1882, and they came to America on their wedding trip. To them have been born: Caspar Peter, Signa Mary and Walter Bian.

**Rev. Olaf M. Saevig** was born in Trondhjem, Norway, on July 31, 1850, son of M. J. and Nellie (Lee) Saevig, both of whom are now deceased. He received his primary education in the common schools and later graduated from the state normal school in Trondhjem, after which he taught for three years in his fatherland. In 1873 he came to the United States. After teaching in the parochial school at Lanesboro for two years, he entered Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, from which institution he graduated three years later, subsequently studying theology at Madi-

son, Wisconsin, for three years. He was ordained April 4, 1880, and for four years thereafter served as assistant minister at Koshkong, Wisconsin. Then he accepted a call to Wyota, and preached the gospel there for twenty years, serving five congregations and building two new churches. In 1904 he went to Duluth, Minnesota, and occupied a pulpit there for two years, after which he returned to Wisconsin for a well deserved rest. Since February 12, 1911, he has served two congregations in Fillmore county, one at Whalen and the other at Peterson. His record of service is a most honorable one. He has given the best years of his life to his chosen calling and wherever he has preached his earnestness and unselfishness have imprinted on the minds of his people an example worthy of following. On September 14, 1892, Rev. Saevig was united in marriage with Angeline Nelson, of Argyle, Wisconsin, and this union has been blessed with: Gerhard, Nora, Esther and Alfa.

**John Stennes**, a well known farmer residing in Preble township, was born near Stavanger, Norway, November 11, 1886, son of Daniel and Serena Stennes, who spent their lives in that country. With his grandfather, Ole Stennes, the subject of this biography came to America in 1892, and lived for a time with Christ Jacobson, in Mabel. For several years John Stennes was employed by different farmers in the locality, after which he rented the Ellefson property, which he at present occupies. If the consent of the heirs can be obtained Mr. Stennes will purchase the property at the earliest opportunity. He now carries on general farming and raises some stock, owning five horses and twelve head of cattle. He was married December 26, 1908, to Minnie Hagen, born in Preble township April 13, 1886. They have one son, Earl Dorvil.

**Oscar Peterson** was born in Preble township, August 25, 1881, son of John and Johannah Peterson, both natives of Norway. Oscar Peterson received his education in the local schools and worked at home till nineteen years of age. He then went to North Dakota, where he worked some years, and later took a homestead in Holden township, Adams county, where he was the second homesteader. After proving up he sold his claim and went to Alberta, Canada, where he bought a quarter section of land and farmed till 1910. In the latter year he returned to Preble and bought an interest in the general merchandise business in Choice. He later sold his Canadian farm and now has all his business interests here in this county. He has had considerable experience at mechanical trades and has a good working knowledge of carpentry and mechanics. On January 11, 1911,

he married Olga Nordgaard, who was born in Norway, November 20, 1881. To this union has been born one son, Stanley Jerome, January 29, 1912.

**Lars Hoff**, a well known citizen of Preble township, is a native of Houston county, born January 20, 1879, son of Alexander and Mary Hoff, natives of Iowa and Norway, respectively, who moved to this county in 1894 and bought a farm, which they later disposed of, after which they purchased a mill at Yucatan, Houston county, and there reside at the present time. Lars, subject of this sketch, was given a common school education, and early in life fitted himself for general farming. During the year 1909 he rented property and started for himself on sections 21 and 33, where he engages in diversified farming, owning his implements and stock. In political convictions he adheres to the principles of the Republican party. January 20, 1911, Lena Moen became his wife, and to them has been born a son, Miles.

**Carsten Kvarme** was born in Norway December 18, 1885, son of Andrew and Olena Kvarme. He was educated in the common schools of his native country, taught himself the English language, and after his mother's death in 1902 prepared to come to America. After his arrival he worked as a farm hand for different farmers near Mabel, Minnesota. Being both industrious and economical, he managed to save from his earnings and in 1912 he bought 80 acres on section 20, Preble township, where he carries on general farming. Politically he is a Republican and he is not a seeker for public office. He was married March 15, 1909, to Anna Rice, born March 22, 1883, at Hesper, Iowa. They have one daughter, Clarissa Amanda. Mr. and Mrs. Kvarme attend the United Lutheran church.

**Ole S. Johnson**, enterprising and well thought of citizen of Preble, was born in Norway, where he first saw the light of day April 1, 1866, son of Simon and Elizabeth (Anderson) Johnson, who brought him to America before he was one year of age, and located in Fillmore county, where they homesteaded land and educated their boys in the common schools. Ole S. assisted his father on the home farm for several years, and in 1895 bought 80 acres on section 16, where he at present engages in general farming, stockraising and dairying. With his brother, John S., he operates his mother's farm, the father having died in 1911. Though for many years a staunch Republican, Mr. Johnson has never sought political preferment, but has devoted his time and energies to improving and cultivating his farm, which is well cared for and productive. In 1890 Mr. Johnson married Isabel

Anne Iverson, born in Norway on June 10, 1867, and to this union eight children have been born: Selma, Oscar, Arnold, Edwin, Irvin, Alma, Amelia and Annie (deceased). The family attends the United Lutheran church and is esteemed in the community.

**Emma Taugen** was born in Norway May 23, 1867, daughter of Olaves and Betsy Maria Taugen, who came to the United States from Norway in 1870, and settled on a farm in Preble township, which has since been the family home. Emma Taugen received her education in the common schools, to which she gave studious attention. After completing her schooling she assisted in the duties of the home. She is now the only living child of her parents, and owns the farm of 80 acres. She has Melvin, a son of her sister, working the farm for her. They keep from 15 to 20 head of cattle, raise from six to ten hogs annually, and have a small herd of sheep and eight horses. Miss Taugen is a member of the Lutheran church.

**Tollof M. Olson** was born in Houston county, Minnesota, October 14, 1860, son of Ole and Isabel Olson, who lived in Norway till 1859, when they came to America and settled in Preble township, where they bought land and made their home the remainder of their lives. Tollof was educated in the common schools of Minnesota and then assisted his parents. He now owns the old homestead of 80 acres in sections 8 and 9, where he follows general farming, keeping a sufficient number of cattle and other live stock for the successful conduct of a farm in this locality. Julia Anderson, a native of Norway, became his wife and to them have been born three children, Adolph, Olga and Inger.

**Ole Ingelson**, and his wife, Marie, came from Norway in 1861, and located in Preble township, this county. After working for farmers two years he bought a tract of wild land and by hard effort brought it to a high state of cultivation. There were nine children in the Ingelson family. Johannah married S. I. Norgaard. Cora married B. Carey (now deceased) and has three children: Nellie, Eunice and Cora. Dora married A. H. Wicks. Mattie married Charles Freyler. Louise married A. Craig. Ole is deceased. The others are Hans, Martin and Carl.

**Christ C. Johnson**, who is now operating his mother's farm of 145 acres on section 20, Preble township, is one of the industrious and progressive farmers in the vicinity. He was born at Stavenger, Norway, July 22, 1877, son of Christopher and Christine Johnson. The father died in his native land and in 1884 the mother brought her six children to America, living a while with

her brother, Halvor Halvorsen, and later purchasing a farm, on which she has since resided. Christ acquired a common school education and has spent his life working for his mother and caring for her. He keeps a herd of eighteen cattle for general dairy purposes, raises some hogs, has three horses and works the property on shares, owning the necessary machinery and tools.

**Hans Ingelson** was born on the farm where he still resides in Preble township, February 14, 1868, son of Ole and Maria Ingelson. He received his education in the neighborhood, and since the death of his parents has continued to reside on the home place, which is owned jointly by him and his brothers and sisters, his sister Dora living on the place and looking after the household duties. He has been secretary of the Choice creamery and is well regarded.

**Bernt R. Benson**, a resident of this county since 1858, was born in Norway on March 22, 1857, son of Reier and Sigrid Benson, who in 1858 crossed the ocean, landed at Quebec, came to Minnesota, settled in Rushford, later bought a farm in section 17, and for fifty years carried on general farming, the father dying in 1909 at the age of 75, and the mother still living with her son, Bernt R., at the age of 83 years. Bernt R. received a common school education and after working on the home farm for a period went to Dakota and worked out for two years. Returning to Fillmore county in 1900, he purchased the home farm, now owning 200 acres, of which about 110 are under cultivation. He does general farming and raises pure bred Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses. Mr. Benson is a Republican and has been elected to various offices in his township, serving two years on the town board and seven years as clerk of school district 146. He is vice-president of the Rushford Coöperative Creamery. Mr. Benson was united in marriage with Ingebor Vogen on November 5, 1886, and they have been blessed with eight children, Cora, Sena, Olga and Laura, at home; Inga, attending college in Austin; Roy, who died in infancy, and Gena Benard at home. The family faith is that of the Rushford Lutheran church.

**Ben C. Iverson**, a successful and enterprising farmer residing in Preble township, was born in the locality which is his present home, son of Christian and Bertha Iverson, who came to America from Norway and made their first home in this country in Illinois, later removing to Fillmore county and locating on a farm in Preble, where Ben C. was born. During boyhood the subject of this sketch attended the district school and spent much time in

the employ of his father on the home farm, with whom he remained until 1899. Then he started life for himself and rented some land. In 1906 he bought his present farm of 60 acres in section 12, where he carries on general farming and stockraising. He is affiliated with the United Lutheran church and in political opinions is a Republican. On January 16, 1899, he was united in marriage with Matilda Paulson, born in Winona, May 14, 1879, daughter of Christian and Rebecca Paulson. To Mr. and Mrs. Iverson have been born four children, Celia Rosella, Melvin B., Blanche C. and Olga M.

**Peter G. Sand**, a thrifty farmer residing in the township of Preble, was born in Norway, September 27, 1862, son of John P. and Marie, life-long residents of that country. Peter G. went to school in Norway and grew to manhood in the home of his parents. During the year of 1900 he decided to seek his fortune in America. Upon his arrival in the United States he proceeded west to Iowa, there securing employment of farmers in the vicinity of Cresco. For two years he made his home in Iowa, after which he went to Houston county, Minnesota, and there spent four years in the employ of various farmers. After coming to Preble township Mr. Sand worked for various farmers, and being of good habits and economical, he saved from his earnings, and in 1911 bought 140 acres on sections 2 and 11. Here he carries on diversified farming and dairying. Politically he is identified with the Republican party. In 1892 he married Anna Olson, also a native of Norway, born in 1869. To this union seven children have been born, Marget, Hjelmer, Petrae, Suger, John, Agnes and Hilda. The family attends the United Lutheran church.

**Carl Robert Moen**, a successful business man of Peterson, was born in Arendahl township, August 19, 1878. When a boy he attended the district schools of his township and assisted his father on the farm until 1885, during which year he moved to Peterson with his parents. In time he entered into business with his brothers, who owned and conducted the Moen Brothers Casket Company, and the firm carried on a flourishing business for many years. Carl Robert, feeling the need of a better education, entered the Stoughton Academy at Stoughton, Wisconsin, graduating from the commercial course in 1897. In 1899 he went to Winona and there learned photography, returning six months later to Peterson and opening a studio. In his chosen profession Mr. Moen has met with marked success, and he has branch studios in both Harmony and Mabel, the former being opened on September 1, 1910, and the latter in July, 1907. Mr. Moen is a stockholder in the Peterson Creamery and he is interested in

various other business enterprises. He has been elected to serve in several public offices in the township and was a member of the city council for a year. On September 3, 1899, Mr. Moen married Jennie Gelena, daughter of John and Mary P. (Haslerud) Ensberg, and to them have been born: Myrtle, Jeanette, Olive Marie, Alto Evangeline and Pearl Beatrice. The family attends the Lutheran church.

**Ludvig Flattum** was born in Norway township, May 18, 1886, son of Hans and Annie Flattum, natives of Norway, where they grew up and were married. Later in life they joined a party of their country people and came to the United States, locating in Minnesota and settling in Norway township, this county. Ludvig received his education in the common schools and assisted his parents on the home place till he was twenty-one years of age, when he married and rented land. In 1909 he bought 100 acres in section 6, Preble township, and has since followed general farming there. He has a herd of twenty cattle of general purpose variety, raises from ten to twenty hogs annually, and has six horses for farm work and driving. In politics he is usually a supporter of Republican principles, but has never sought offices. He was married May 20, 1907, to Ida Rostvold, a native of Preble township. To them have been born two children: Attle and Roy.

**Austin G. Maland** was born in Christiansands, Stift, Bratsberg Amt. Tin Prestegeld Ovre Thelemarken Norge, September 2, 1812, and married Annie Overland, born November 19, 1812. Both came to the United States while children and lived in Racine county, Wisconsin. Annie Overland's father assisting in cutting and hauling logs for the first Norwegian Lutheran church in North America, which was built at Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin. In 1857 Austin G. Maland arrived in Fillmore county and located in Harmony, where he made the family home and followed general farming until near the time of his death, March 2, 1878.

**Ole H. Moen** was born in Norway and was brought to America by his parents in 1848, at the age of six years. They lived in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, about six years. After the mother's death Ole H., twelve years old, and his father, Harold Moen, came to Minnesota and bought land in Arendahl township, on the payments of which exorbitant interest was charged. This land was mostly wild prairie, and much hard labor was necessary to prepare it for the raising of general farm crops. On May 4, 1886, Ole H. Moen and his sons moved into Peterson village. At this time there were but two small stores in the town, owned by

T. A. Jackson and S. C. Thompson, respectively, the latter's building being purchased by Mr. Moen, who entered the furniture and hardware business. During the fall of the same year A. A. Ness moved to Peterson and bought an unoccupied flour mill, and assisted by the Moen family opened a grain market, which he operated for several years. The failure of this business eventually undermined his health, he and the Moens losing considerable money. Ole H. Moen married Maria O. Kopperud, and they had six children, three of whom are living: Herman, O. A. O. and Carl R. Ole H. Moen died in May, 1897, and his wife passed away in January, 1905.

**O. A. O. Moen** was born in Arendahl township in 1874, son of Ole H. and Maria O. (Kopperud) Moen. His education was acquired in the district schools of the county and in Stoughton Academy, Stoughton, Wisconsin, from which he graduated in the class of 1892. Returning to Fillmore county, the subject of this sketch went to work for his father and A. A. Ness, then grain dealers in Peterson. The following year he began the manufacture of caskets in connection with the furniture business, in which his father was also interested. Mr. Moen at present is engaged in this line and has met with success in his chosen occupation. Politically he is a member of the Prohibitionist party and he has long been prominently identified with church work, being a member of the Hauge Lutheran church. He, for several years, was superintendent of the Sunday School, and at present is president of the Lutheran League, which with the assistance of O. Ensberg, he organized. Mr. Moen is president of the Peterson Telephone Exchange, and to his efforts the present fine system in that town is due. In April, 1909, he began working to improve telephone conditions and his efforts have been rewarded with success. On September 9, 1896, Mr. Moen married Ellen O. Boyum, daughter of Ole E. and Anna (Johnson) Boyum. To Mr. and Mrs. Moen three daughters have been born, Gladine Eaudora, Esther Victoria and Eleanor Anne Marie.

**Martin A. Maland**, farmer, banker and manufacturer, was born in Wisconsin, August 23, 1846, son of Austin G. and Annie (Overland) Maland. He received his education in the common and parochial schools of Wisconsin and Minnesota, assisting his parents and growing to manhood in Harmony, this county. April 8, 1873, he was united in marriage with Susan, daughter of O. Dommerud, who settled in Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1838. The year after his marriage Mr. Maland moved to Norway township and settled on land previously purchased on sections 29 and 30. Other tracts were added from time to time till Mr. Maland be-



came an extensive land owner. From his early days he was of prominence in public affairs. In 1881 he was elected county commissioner, and in 1885 and 1889 represented Fillmore county in the State legislature. He was the author of the original County Option bill, which he introduced in 1889. March 23, 1892, he left his excellent farm in Norway township and moved to Rushford city, which has since been his home. He is here extensively interested in the affairs of the city and connected with several of the business enterprises and institutions which are the most dependable of the locality, being vice-president of the Rushford State Bank and president of the Rushford Wagon Company. The latter company is one of the oldest and most widely known of all Rushford's activities, and is extensively and appropriately mentioned elsewhere in this work. In politics Mr. Maland is a Republican, and aside from the offices already mentioned has held many smaller offices in the various localities where he has resided. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Rushford; formerly he attended the Highland Prairie church of the same denomination. To Mr. and Mrs. Maland were born ten children: Almer L., deceased; Amelia B., Hilda M., Clara L., deceased; Clarence O., Arthur E., John G., James W., Lillie C. and Cora L. Amelia B. married F. A. Olson and they have one child, Martin M. John G. married Callie H. Hoffman and they are living in Fulton, Missouri.

**Andreas J. Agrimson**, was born in Wisconsin November 10, 1860, son of Jacob and Inger (Hanna) Agrimson. When the subject of this sketch was but a year of age, his parents brought him to Fillmore county and here he has since made his home. He received his education in the common schools of Arendahl township and remained at home after leaving school, working for his father until he attained his majority. In 1881, Mr. Agrimson bought a valuable farm, which comprised 360 acres. On this farm he resides at the present time. It is located in sections fifteen and twenty-three, Arendahl township. Engaging in general, diversified farming, Mr. Agrimson also raises many Short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs, and makes a specialty of pure-bred horses for general farm and driving purposes. He has long been a loyal supporter of the Prohibitionist party, and in recognition of his executive ability, the people of his community have elected him to serve in several responsible offices of the township, among which are supervisor of the township, treasurer of the school board and also road overseer. Mr. Agrimson is a stockholder in the local creamery and also owns shares in the elevator. In 1882 he married Britta Hulson and to them have been born Bertha, Inger, Peter, Jacob, Alfred B., Maria,

Elmer J., Bertinus, Judith, Alida and Sarah. Inger is now superintendent of St. Johns Hospital, at Sioux City, Iowa; Bertha is employed as nurse in the same hospital. John Berge has been taken by Mr. Agrimson, who gives the lad a home until he becomes self-supporting, the father being blind and mother dead. Mr. Agrimson and his family attend the Norwegian Lutheran church and contribute to the support of this house of worship.

**Peter Peterson Haslerud**, deceased, who platted and owned the village site of Peterson, was one of the first settlers in Rushford township. He was born in Norway July 21, 1828, and there received his education and remained until fifteen years of age. In 1843 he came to America, first locating in Illinois, later going to Wisconsin, and there engaged in logging in the pineries. In July, 1853, he came with his wife to this county, they being among one of the first party of emigrants to locate in Rushford township. He settled on section 30, where he engaged in farming, and there lived until summoned by death. He devoted his time to agricultural pursuits largely, but ever took an active part in the good and welfare of his town and county, and in his day held nearly all the town and local offices and served one term in the lower house of the State Legislature. Mr. Haslerud was married to Cornelia Anderson, and this union resulted in the birth of five children: George P., a hardware merchant of Peterson; Andrew, of Arendahl; Mary, now Mrs. J. O. Ensberg, of Peterson; Annie, who died in infancy; and Adeline, now Mrs. Elmer Halvorson, of Peterson. Mrs. Cornelia (Anderson) Haslerud died April 15, 1892. Their oldest child, George P., is supposedly the first white child born in Rushford township, the date of his birth being November 10, 1853.

**Oscar Carlson**, the popular superintendent of Fillmore county schools, was born in Pilot Mound, this county, September 4, 1872, son of Ole and Catherine (Berg) Carlson, natives of Norway. He attended the county schools, and the Winona high school. Later he entered the State Normal school at Winona, and graduated from the advanced class in 1899. For some time after completing his education, he taught school. Then he mastered the science of Osteopathy and opened an office in North Dakota. A year later he went to Chicago and took a course in electro-therapeutics, preparatory to taking charge of the electro-therapeutic work for Drs. Finfrock and Maxfield, at Illiopolis, Ill. Later, Drs. Finfrock and Carlson opened an office in Decatur, Ill., where Dr. Carlson remained until his return to Fillmore county in 1905. He became interested in public matters and was elected county superintendent of schools in 1906. He has since served

continuously, giving much satisfaction. Mr. Carlson was united in wedlock August 21, 1907, with Della E. Luick, daughter of W. H. Luick, of Muncie, Ind., and their home has been blessed with one son, Roy William, born August 20, 1908. Mr. Carlson attends the Methodist church and is a member of the I. O. O. F. He makes his home in the city of Preston, and is regarded as one of her leading citizens.

**Jacob J. Agrimson**, who owns a well-tilled farm of 280 acres in section fourteen, Arendahl township, is a native of this county, having been born in this township during the year of 1873. His parents were Jacob and Inger (Hanna) Agrimson, natives of Norway and early residents of this county. While a boy, the subject of this sketch attended school near his father's farm and spent the periods of vacation in assisting with the farm work. For many years after completing his education, Mr. Agrimson remained at home with his parents, assuming charge of the home place, to which he gave his best efforts. His present property evidences the industrious habits of its owner, and under his good management, yields abundant crops each year. He carries on general farming, together with stock raising and dairying. He affiliates with the Republican party and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Jacob Agrimson** and his wife, Inger (Hanna), were born in Norway in 1831, and there they spent the early years of their lives, attended school and were later married. In 1854 they left the land of their birth and crossed the ocean to the United States. After their arrival in this country they came west to Wisconsin, where they made their home for seven years. In 1861 they came to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore county, breaking land and developing a farm in Arendahl township. During the Civil War the failure of a bank in which Mr. Agrimson had deposited his savings deprived him of the money which his years of toil and industry had accumulated. This was a severe blow to Mr. Agrimson, but he worked on with even greater energy than before and as the years passed again became the owner of a comfortable home and farm. To himself and estimable wife three sons were born, of whom Andreas J., the eldest, is now a prosperous farmer of Arendahl township; Jacob J. is also a resident of Arendahl and resides on section fourteen, and John, the youngest, owns a farm in the same township.

**John Agrimson**, a well-known resident of Arendahl township, was born near his present home on January 20, 1880, son of Jacob and Inger (Hanna) Agrimson, early settlers in this county. He

grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended school near home. Completing his education, he devoted his time and energy to general farming industries, which occupation he is following at the present time. He now owns 160 acres of well cultivated land, which is located in sections fourteen and fifteen, and in connection with his general farming, Mr. Agrimson makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle for dairy purposes and Duroc-Jersey hogs, for which he finds ready market. In political views, the subject of this biography is a staunch Prohibitionist, he has served his community in minor offices, having been road overseer for some time. Mr. Agrimson was formerly a director of the creamery, to which he disposes of his dairy products. On June 15, 1904, Maria J. Skarstad became his wife and they are the parents of three children, Esther, Adella and Jerome O. The family attend the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which congregation they are respected members.

**Thomas N. Jerston**, a progressive farmer who owns 120 acres in section twenty-one, was born in Arendahl township in 1870. His parents, Nels Jerston and Inga (Torkelson) Jerston, were natives of Norway and came to America and settled in Wisconsin for a time, after which they came to Minnesota and located in Arendahl township, their present home. Thomas N. was educated in the common schools of the county and until he was twenty-four years of age, worked for his father on the home farm. In 1900 he bought his present property from his father, and he has since carried on general farming together with stock raising. He is a stockholder in the Arendahl creamery and has various business interests. He has long affiliated with the Republican party. On December 13, 1894, he married Lena Indrelee, daughter of Hans and Martha (Dalboten) Indrelee. This marriage has been blessed with Nels, Henry, Edwin, Martin, Albert, Olander and Ada Mary. The family are members of the United Lutheran church.

**Hans I. Torgerson**, who owns 453 acres of valuable land in sections sixteen, twenty-one and seventeen, Arendahl township, was born in this township in 1865, son of Iver and Brita J. Rosetter Torgerson. The subject of this biography spent the years of his boyhood as does the average farm boy, going to school and working on the home farm during vacation months. His carefully cultivated property is now one of the most productive in the community and aside from his general farm interests he raises Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, horses of a good breed and many chickens. He affiliates with the Republican party and has served in the office of road overseer. He owns stock in both the

Arendahl creamery and elevator and he is keenly interested in all movements which tend toward the general improvement of his township and community. On January 17, 1889, he married Maria Johnson, and this marriage has been blessed with Bertha, J., Clara M., Laura, Ingbold C., Julia M., Josie, Alpha O., Mabel H., Harry T., and Alvin J. The family reside on the old Torgerson homestead and are highly esteemed by their fellow citizens.

**John Alexander Ferguson**, prominent resident of Arendahl township, was born here in 1875. His parents were Canadians who came to Minnesota in 1858 and settled in Arendahl, where the father broke the wild land and cultivated it, carrying on general farming for many years. John C., the father, and his estimable wife, Isabel (Scott) Ferguson were real pioneers in this county and they endured the hardships incident to life at that time, the former later became prominent in town and village affairs and served as member of both town and school board. John A., the subject of this biography was educated, partly in the common schools and partly in studying by himself. Until 1900, he worked his father's farm, then purchasing land for a home of his own. His possessions embrace 280 acres of valuable land located in sections six and seven. Here Mr. Ferguson carries on general farming but devotes a greater share of his attention to raising pure bred stock, Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, good horses and Plymouth Rock poultry. In political ideas he is a Republican and that he is highly esteemed in his community is shown by the various offices to which he has been elected to serve, among which are town clerk, justice of the peace, assessor, clerk of the school board, and secretary of Lanesboro Telephone Company, being one of the promoters of that company. He is also revisor in the Arendahl creamery, and owns stock in the Peterson elevator. In 1898 Mr. Ferguson married Regina Haugen, a teacher in Arendahl township, and their marriage has been blessed with four children, John Arthur, James Earl, Agne Janet and Mabel Catherine.

**Andrew O. Boyum**, successful business man of Peterson, was born in Arendahl township in 1876, son of Ole E. Boyum. In the district schools of the township, the subject of this sketch began the rudiments of his education, which was supplemented with two years in the Red Wing Seminary, and later a course at Breckenridge Academy, and finally he completed his studies with a business course at Jewell Business College. In 1900 Mr. Boyum came to Peterson and entered the furniture business, which he disposed of two years later, then purchasing a dray line, which he operated for seven years. In 1909 he began buying and sell-

ing grain and feed, and in this occupation he is engaged at the present time, being also associated with a monument firm, whose business interests he represents in Peterson. He has for many years held responsible positions in the township, being the present manager of the Peterson elevator, stockholder in the creamery, member of the council, clerk of school board and road overseer. On September 27, 1900, Annie, daughter of Andrew and Marie (Nesheim) Thompson, became the wife of Mr. Boyum, and they are the parents of Amy Muriel, Almira S., Orel A., Amos A., Elsie B., Rebecca L. and Olive M. The family attend the Hauge Lutheran Church, and are active workers for the support of that organization.

Jens N. Skarstad was born in Norway in 1839, son of Nels Peterson and Susie Iverson (Svedal) Peterson, natives of that country, who came to America in 1875. Jens, the subject of this biography, was educated in the common schools of Norway and came to the United States in 1861. Three years later he settled in Arendahl township and for some time operated a farm owned by John Agrimson. This farm was wild land and required a great deal of arduous toil to prepare it for cultivation and the production of valuable crops. In 1864 Mr. Skarstad married Anna O. Boyum, daughter of Ole Erickson and Anna (Larson) Boyum. To this marriage a family of eleven children were born, of whom Ole is deceased; Susie married Iver A. Boyum; Annie is the wife of Lars J. Benston; Nelsina married Ole L. Berge and is deceased; Iver and Carl are farmers; Julia is deceased; Ole Henry graduated from commercial course in Southern Minnesota Normal School at Austin in June, 1905, and died at the age of twenty-four years; John graduated from the same course in the same school in 1906; Alfred is a student in a veterinary college, Chicago. Mr. Skarstad now lives a retired life making his home with his son, John, in Peterson. He has long been affiliated with the Republican party and for three terms was a member of the school board. He owns stock in the Arendahl creamery and has various other business interests. He is a respected member of the Hauge Lutheran Church.

Christian J. Benston, a respected citizen of Arendahl township, was born where he now resides in 1870. His parents, John L. and Inga (Nelson) Benston, were born in Norway and there grew up, after which they immigrated to this country and located in Wisconsin, where they were married in 1856. Some time later, in 1864, they moved to Minnesota and located in Arendahl township, purchased a farm and there spent the remainder of their lives. The father died in 1905. Christian, the subject of

this biography received a common school education and grew to manhood on the home farm, which he bought from his father in 1893. This valuable property is located in sections twenty-eight and thirty-three and comprises 288 acres. Mr. Benston makes a specialty of raising cattle of the Shorthorn type. In 1911 he was obliged to dispose of them all, owing to their being infected with a disease diagnosed as Hermorridge Septizema, which they had contracted during shipment from Chicago. In connection with his cattle raising, Mr. Benston engages in general farming. He is a Republican in politics and has served as member of the town board, clerk of the school board for six years and road overseer for several terms, giving general satisfaction in all offices which he has occupied. He owns stock in the Arendahl creamery and has recently purchased from Jens Skarstad a home in the village of Peterson, where he spends his winters, working on the farm in summer. June 2, 1897, Mr. Benston married Julia Boyum, daughter of Ole E. and Anna Johnson (Langeteig) Boyum. To this marriage have been born two children, Orlando Joel, born February 2, 1901, and Agnes Irene, born June 10, 1904. The family are affiliated with the Hague Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Andreas P. Quamen** was born at Eogen, Norway, in 1859, son of Peter Iverson and Syena (Nelson) Iverson. When the subject of this sketch was a boy of ten years, his parents crossed the ocean to America, in 1869. Their first home in this country was in Wisconsin, but after spending a year there, they came to Minnesota and took a farm in Arendahl township. Here the father erected a log house, and cleared and broke his land, afterward carrying on general farming until his death, which occurred in 1877. The subject of this sketch was educated partly in Norway and finished his schooling in this country, after which he devoted all his energies to working on the home farm. In 1882, he went to North Dakota, but remained there only a short time, after which he returned to his home in Arendahl township, and bought a farm, which comprised 240 acres, in section twenty-four. Mr. Quamen is engaged in general farming together with stock-raising, being the owner of a Short Horn sire, "Pride of Valley Grove." He disposes of about thirty head of cattle a year, and of about forty hogs, and keeps nine good horses for general farm use. He owns stock in the Arendahl creamery and elevator and has various interests in different business enterprises. Having long been a staunch Republican, he has served in minor offices in the township, among which his term of office as road overseer may be included. Mr. Quamen is decidedly a self-made man and he often relates the story of his boyhood days, when for two years

he carried water a mile and a half, twice a day. In 1889, the family home caught fire and burned to the ground, as nothing was saved and there was no insurance, it was a total loss, but the debt of several thousand dollars has long since been paid by Mr. Quamen. In 1883 Louisa Johnson became his wife, and their marriage has been blessed with nine children: Peder J., Charlie E., Emma S., Anna B., Betsy E., Louise, Andreas, Alma C. and Esther M. The family are members of the United Lutheran church.

**Peter C. Peterson**, a representative farmer residing in the township of Rushford, is of Norwegian birth and parentage. He was born November 3, 1861, son of Carl C. Peterson, who brought him to America in 1866, and to Rushford, where they settled on a farm. Mr. Peterson grew to manhood in this township, and attended the country school until sixteen years of age. He now owns the old homestead of 174 acres and keeps about 100 acres under the plow. He raises cattle and engages in dairying and carries on general, diversified farming. For the carrying on of his general farm work, he keeps four good horses. Mr. Peterson is affiliated with the Republican party, but the many duties of the farm have prevented his taking an active part in the political affairs of the county. In 1904 he married Lena Struma of Houston county and they have four children: Carl, Edward, Oscar and Gilbert, all of whom are at home. Mr. Peterson's father also makes his home with the subject of this biography. The family worship at the Rushford Lutheran church and contribute to its support.

**Mrs. Frances Elton**, the successful and popular photographer of Preston, was born in Onalaska, Wisconsin, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Bemis) Roberts. Nathaniel Roberts came to Wisconsin from Vermont in the pioneer days, settled near Onalaska, carried on farming operations for many years and died when his daughter Frances was but four years old. After his death Mrs. Sarah Roberts moved to Minneapolis, where she engaged in the confectionery business, in which work she met with a marked degree of success for a number of years, but owing to trouble with her hands, caused by the contact with sugar and coloring matter, she disposed of the business and moved to Austin, where she lived for three years, passing away in 1910. Frances, the daughter, received her education in the city schools of Minneapolis, and there grew to young womanhood. After leaving school, she secured employment in a photograph gallery, and by faithful application to her work soon learned the business. She later married Andrew Elton and to them have been born



two children, Marian E. and Marjory E. In her present occupation Mrs. Elton is recognized as a thorough business woman, respected by the community in which she resides. Her studio is well equipped and modern in every respect.

**Rasmus Rasmussen** was born in Norway in 1858, son of Rasmus and Annie Serena Rasmussen, who brought their family to America in 1870, and purchased a farm in Holt township, which they broke and improved. The subject of this sketch has always lived with his family, and now owns the home place of 100 acres, where he carries on general farming and stock raising, in sections twenty-seven and twenty-four. He married Petrina Noem, a native of Holt township, daughter of Peter and Annie Noem. They have had five children, those living being Lena Rebecca, Alfred Andreas, Arthur Rudolph and Clarence Edward.

**Wallace W. Dikeman** was born in New York, April 19, 1843, son of Levi and Margaret Dikeman, both natives of New York. He received a common school education, and came to Rushford, this county, during the Civil War, working for various farmers. In 1865 he purchased a farm in section fifteen, Holt township. This place he still owns. His wife owns forty acres in section sixteen, and the whole farm of eighty acres is rented on shares. Mr. and Mrs. Dikeman live in a pleasant residence on a lot of one and a quarter acres, owned also by Mrs. Dikeman. Mr. Dikeman has been supervisor of the township, and is now overseer of roads. He has been associated with school work for the past forty years, and is now clerk of the school board. He is a Democrat in politics, and the family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. The subject of this sketch was married, October 27, 1861, to Lavina Walker, born in Le Roy township, Lake county, Ohio, June 27, 1842, daughter of Tyler and Polly (Roe) Walker. To this union were born four children, of whom three, Margaret E., Herbert L. and Ruby P. are living. Margaret married William McDowell, and they live in Lily, South Dakota. Herbert L. married Laura Nihl, and they live in Minneapolis. Ruby married Frank Hanses, and they live in Valley City, North Dakota.

**Carl Skarstad**, a successful and industrious farmer, is a native of Arendahl township, born in 1880, son of Jens and Anna Skarstad, natives of Norway. He was educated in the common schools of Fillmore county and worked for his father until 1904. During that year, Mr. Skarstad moved to his present farm, consisting of 360 acres in sections twenty-seven and thirty-four, 200 acres having been purchased in December, 1910, and 160 acres in 1908.

Mr. Skarstad carries on general farming and dairying, preferring Shorthorn cattle. He also raises Poland China hogs and keeps several horses. In political opinions he endorses the sentiments of the Republican party, but has been too closely occupied with attending to his work on the farm to become an office seeker. On June 15, 1904, Helen, daughter of Mrs. Gurene Benton, became the wife of Mr. Skarstad and to them have been born: Gerhard O., Archie J., Clifford H. and Olive Helene. The family attend the Lutheran church, of which they are esteemed members.

**Michael B. Ramsey**, who has represented the people of Arendahl township in many prominent public offices, was born at Sogen, Norway, in 1855, son of Bottolf Peterson and Gertru Michaelson (Bothun) Ramsey, who in 1862 came from Norway to America, and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father followed his trade as shoemaker, the family moving to Fillmore county in 1867, and taking land in Pilot Mound, where the father erected a log cabin, in which they lived for many years. Michael grew to manhood on the home farm and was given a common school education. In 1880 he rented some land which he worked on shares, and the following year rented from Erick Erickson. The farm of 200 acres in section nine, Arendahl township, which he later purchased, is now one of the well-kept places in the community. Mr. Ramsey engages in diversified farming, raises Short Horn cattle and Poland China hogs, keeps seven good horses for general farm and driving purposes and fancies pure bred Plymouth Rock chickens. Mr. Ramsey was one of the promoters of the Lanesboro and North Prairie Telephone Company, being one of the first to realize the importance of organizing this company. He has been treasurer of the company, served as such for two years, and at present he is its vice-president. Politically he is a Republican, and has served as supervisor of the township, chairman of the school board and road overseer. He owns stock in the Arendahl creamery and has other business interests. For some years, Mr. Ramsey has been chairman of the board of trustees of the United Lutheran Church, and he has given general satisfaction in all offices which he has held. He was married November 18, 1880, to Carrie, daughter of Erick Erickson and Betsie Anderson Svern, his wife. To them have been born: Carl M., Edward B., Julia, Andrew, Betsie O., Martha P., Alfred C., Peter, Clarence M., Unnie C. and Bennie E.

**Luther S. Kingstad** was born November 20, 1880, on the farm which has since been his home in Preble township. He is the son of Nels and Serena Kingstad, who were natives of Norway

and came to America in 1855. They took a claim in Preble and there struggled to make a home and a farm from their wild land claim. In this they succeeded. Luther S., received his schooling in the common schools and later assisted his parents on the farm. When grown to manhood, he and his brother, Oscar, rented the parents' farm, which they afterward bought. They continued to work their farm in partnership till February 5, 1907, when Luther bought Oscar's share, and has since conducted the farm alone. He now owns 197 acres in sections twenty-one and twenty-two in Preble, and follows general farming. He keeps about twenty head of general purpose cattle and raises annually about 125 hogs. He keeps from forty to fifty sheep and ten or twelve horses. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican and has been for some years treasurer of the school district number nine. He was married in October, 1905, to Lizzie Amdahl, a native of Preble where she was born March 8, 1885.

Rev. Endre Jaastad was born in Norway, May 21, 1846, son of Lars and Christine (Lussan) Jaastad. He attended the seminary at Storoeian, Norway, came to America in 1869, studied at Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, one year, and then entered Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., from which he graduated in 1873. He was ordained at La Crosse that year, to the ministry of the United Lutheran church, and came directly to Rushford, where he has done excellent work. He is married and he and his wife have had nine children, of whom six are living.

Nathaniel N. Kingstad is a native of Preble, where he was born September 18, 1868. He is a brother of the above mentioned Luther S., and they attended the common school of the home district. Having completed the common schools Nathaniel worked at home till twenty-five years of age. He then attended the Decorah Business School two terms. He later worked in Houston county for three years and with his earnings he purchased a farm in Preble. In 1904 he sold that farm and purchased his father-in-law's farm, which has since been his home. He now owns 153 acres in section twenty-eight, and follows general farming. He has a herd of fifteen general purpose cattle and raises about seventy to eighty hogs annually. He keeps eight horses for farm work and driving purposes. He is a member of the United Lutheran Church, and was treasurer of the local church for a number of years. In politics he is a democrat and was for five years assessor in this township. He has also been constable, and is now director of the local school board, a position he has filled for more than six years. On September 30, 1896, he was married to

Matilda Hagen, daughter of Elias and Maria (Dahl) Hagen. She was born in Preble township, November 20, 1876. To this union have been born two children. Muriel Sydna was born September 22, 1899, and Nedella Evangeline was born December 9, 1901. For the two or three years prior to her marriage Mrs. Kingstad taught in districts 163 and 165, where she is very favorably known. Nathaniel Kingstad owned and operated the first steam threshing rig in his community, having previously taken a course in engineering at Minneapolis.

Even Ferden, president of the village of Rushford, member of the board of directors of the Peterson school, and vice-president of the Peterson creamery, is a native of Fillmore county, born in Arendahl township, October 15, 1872, son of Knut and Mary Ferden, who settled in Arendahl in the early sixties. The subject of this biography was given a common school education and completed his studies when sixteen years of age. After this he remained with his father on the home farm until about twenty-seven years of age, then starting for himself by purchasing 160 acres in section thirty-one, Rushford township, where he has since resided and carried on farming industries. He raises Short-horn cattle, and sells cream to the Peterson creamery. He annually disposes of about forty Chester White hogs. Mr. Ferden is independent in his political views. On February 4, 1892, he was united in marriage with Helen Fossum and to them have been born: Clara, Mabel, Clifford, Ernest and the baby. The family attends the United Lutheran Church at Peterson.

Arne Arneson, deceased, farmer of Newburg township, and honored veteran of the Civil War, was born in Berum, near Christiania, Norway, May 16, 1842, son of Hans and Haagine Arneson. The family came to America in 1851, and located in Rock Prairie, Wis., where they lived until June, 1853, when they came to Newburg township, and settled in section eight, the present site of Newburg village. Here Hans Arneson built a blacksmith shop which was one of the first in the county and which was patronized by the pioneers for fifteen miles around. In 1859 the family moved to the Iver Thompson place, and a year later to section twenty-six, Preble township. Here Hans Arneson erected a log cabin and carried on farming, ending his days, June 13, 1887. His wife passed away, January 26, 1892.

Arne attended the schools in Newburg and Preble. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was one of the guards and witnesses at the famous hanging of the Sioux Indians at Mankato, Minnesota. In 1864 he was wounded at the battle of Tupelo, Miss., and in 1865, was



PRESTON TOWNSHIP LANDMARK

discharged from the hospital at Memphis, Tenn., returning home in May. He lived on the home farm until his retirement in recent years. He replaced the old log cabin with a frame house and brought the place to a high stage of cultivation. In 1909 he moved to section four, Newburg township, where he has a pleasant home and just enough land to keep him busy, without overtaxing his energies. He was town clerk in Preble for eleven years, and was clerk of his school district for a long time. In 1873 he represented his constituents in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. The subject of this sketch was married, July 31, 1875, to Malinde, daughter of Nels Johnson, and they have seven children: Ole J., Herman (deceased); Hanna, wife of Andrew Sherwin; James L., Nora A., Magdalene and Minnie A. Mr. Arneson died March 26, 1912, and his memory is highly revered.

**Arne Arneson**, a prosperous native farmer of York township, was born November 13, 1857, son of Ole and Asalug Arneson, natives of Norway. He grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the district school, later taking a high school course in Spring Valley, and finally completing his education with a year in Luther College. Thus equipped he taught school for twenty-two terms in this county, two terms in Mower county and one term in North Dakota. In 1884, he settled in section thirty-three, York township, and began general farming, which industry he has since continued with success, now owning 160 acres under a high state of cultivation, and keeping about forty head of Short Horn cattle for general dairy purposes. Politically he is an independent Republican, and in recognition of his ability and fair-mindedness the residents of his township have elected him to serve in many public offices, such as assessor for four years, town clerk for a similar period of time, justice of the peace for a while and member of the school board fifteen years. On June 1, 1886, Mary Iverson, daughter of John Iverson, became the wife of Mr. Arneson, and to them nine children have been born: Annie, a teacher in this county; Sever, working in a North Dakota bank; and Ole, Bertha, Emma, Sena, Nellie, Myrtle and Ruth, all at home. The family attends the Lutheran church and is well thought of in that organization.

**Ole Arneson**, deceased, one of the pioneers of Fillmore county, was born in Norway, August 14, 1832, and there spent the early years of his life and received his education. When he was but seven years of age his father died and until he became twenty years old, Ole made his home with his mother. In 1855, he married Asalug Johnson and the following year brought her across the

Atlantic to America. Upon their arrival in this country they proceeded directly to Minnesota and settled near Harmony, where they resided for one year, after which they removed to section thirty-four, York. Here Mr. Arneson purchased land from the government at \$1.25 an acre and erected a log house, broke the wild land and endured the many hardships incident to the life of the pioneers of the county. As time passed and his labors were rewarded with prosperity, he made many improvements on his property, erected a larger and more substantial log house, put up necessary outbuildings, bought farm machinery and increased his agricultural activities. To himself and wife six children were born: Arne, Isabella, Cornelia, Betsey, Julia and John. Mr. Arneson occupied many responsible offices in the township and held the respect of all with whom he was associated. His death occurred in April, 1904.

**Peter Alm**, who for the past twenty-one years has been a resident of Rushford township, is a native of Hadland, Norway. He was born October 28, 1842, and grew to manhood in Hadland, and there was married. In 1868 he, with his bride, came to America. This trip, made in a sail boat, consumed eight weeks, and after landing at Quebec, Mr. Alm and his wife came west to Minnesota, settling in Arendahl township, where they lived for four years. In 1872 he moved to Rushford, bought a farm and has since engaged in agricultural industries. This property comprises 180 acres located in section three, and seventy-five acres of it are under cultivation. Together with general farming, the subject of this biography devotes much attention to dairying. As prosperity has afforded, he has made many improvements on his farm, erecting a handsome dwelling in 1900, and other buildings as needed. On December 19, 1868, he was united in marriage with Sarah Erickson and to this union seven children were born: Mary, and Emma married; Peter, Edward, Carrie, John and Henry. Politically Mr. Alm is a Republican. The family are members of the Lutheran church. Mrs. Alm died September 19, 1909.

**Henry Theodore Wilson** was born in Rushford township, March 18, 1869, son of Oliver Wilson, a native of Norway. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Rushford and acquired his primary education in the district schools later becoming a student in the Rushford high school. Until twenty-five years of age, Mr. Wilson worked with his father on the home farm, after which he started for himself. He now owns 360 acres on sections one and twelve and of this farm about 140 acres are under cultivation. He raises stock and also engages in dairying, keeping about twenty-five or thirty-five head of Shorthorn cattle for that

purpose. In political views he is independent, voting for the man, rather than for party. He is now serving as trustee of Rushford village. Fraternally he is affiliated with the M. W. A. In November, 1894, he married Marie Alm and to this marriage have been born Oliver Palmer, Emory Amos, Ingham Karl, Maria Henrietta and Esther Lucille. The family attend the Lutheran church.

**Ole Tew**, who for over fifty years has been a resident of Rushford township (now village of Rushford), was born in Norway, June 18, 1854. In 1858 the family left the mother country for the United States and arriving here settled in Rushford township, this county, two miles south of Rushford City, at that time a very small village. One year they lived there and then moved northwest of Rushford in Winona county, where they lived two years. They then moved south of Peterson and after a year's stay in Holt township they made their permanent home in section twenty-nine, township of Rushford. Mr. Tew received his education in the common schools and then assisted his father on the home farm for some years. He then left home and for several years followed the trade of coopering, working at this trade at Peterson, Minneapolis, La Crosse and Houston, Minn. He returned to take care of his aged parents, and remained till his father's death which occurred on February 1, 1896. His mother died March 20, 1910. While a resident of Houston Mr. Tew learned the trade of paper hanger and painter, which he has worked at intervals aside from the farm work. He has a farm one mile south of Peterson, which is very advantageously situated. Here he owns ninety acres and follows general farming. In politics he is a Democrat, but has never aspired for office. June 4, 1877, he was united in marriage with Carrie Peterson of Rushford township, and to them have been born six children: Christian of Peterson, Serena Marie now Mrs. Anton Williams of St. Paul, Alfred of St. Paul also married, Morris living in St. Paul and Carl and Mabel at home. The family worships at the Hauge Lutheran Church, Peterson.

**Olaus Buross** was born in Norway in 1854, son of Christopher and Maria Buross, who came to America in the sixties and settled in Norway township, this county, where he acquired land then in an uncultivated state and worked that land into a good farm. Olaus received his education in the common schools and assisted his parents very materially in the farm work. After he grew to manhood he purchased the home farm from the parents and they lived with him until the time of their death. He owned 120 acres in sections thirty-four and thirty-five, Norway, where he followed general farming all his days. On January 6, 1898, he married



Jonete Erlandsen, a daughter of Casper and Maria Erlandsen of Preble township, where she was born. This union was blessed with three children: Marie, Clara Catherine and Olaf Joseph. The Norwegian Lutheran is the family church. After the death of Mr. Buross, February 26, 1902, his nephew, Conrad Buross, rented the farm and has since conducted it for Mrs. Jonete (Erlandsen) Buross, who still owns the home place. Conrad was born in Rushford, August 6, 1886, and received his education in the Rushford schools. He married, September 5, 1910, Gina Hauge, a native of Caledonia, where she was born, May 6, 1892.

Jens Norby was born at Throndjhem, Norway, September 29, 1848, son of Gories and Carrie Norby, natives of that country, who came to America in 1870 and settled in Preble township, this county, where the father bought land, which he grubbed and broke and made to yield abundant crops for many years, the father dying in Norman county in 1888, and the mother on the farm in 1907. Jens now owns the family homestead of eighty acres of well cultivated land on section eighteen, Preble township, where he engages in general farming, keeps fifteen head of dairy cattle, three horses and also other farm stock. He has long been a Republican and has served most ably as supervisor of the township for two terms, and director of the school board for many years, being now school treasurer. In all offices which he has occupied he has given his best efforts and met with the approval of the citizens of his township. Mr. Norby married, November 28, 1877, Carrie Olson, who has borne him seven children: Carrie, Olaus, Julius, Mary, Joseph, Matilda and Cora. With his family, Mr. Norby is a regular attendant of the United Lutheran Church.

John S. Johnson, who operates his farm of eighty acres, located on section ten, Preble, and assists in caring for his mother's homestead in the same section, was born in Norway, January 9, 1863, son of Simon and Elizabeth (Anderson) Johnson, who brought him to the United States at three years of age, living one year in Newburg township, this county, then moving to Preble and homesteading forty acres of wild land, which the father broke and cultivated, and for many years followed general farming, the father dying May 9, 1911, and the mother still making her home there. John S. grew to manhood in his parents' home and attended the district school near by. In 1888 he bought his present farm and now engages in general diversified farming, raising cattle for market and dairy purposes and keeping five horses for the carrying on of his farm work. He owns stock in the Mabel elevator, and has various other business interests. He is a member of the United Lutheran church, and politically is

affiliated with the Republican party, though his duties on the home farm have prevented his accepting public offices. June 25, 1887, he married Annie Seglem, who was born in Newburg township, on September 23, 1868. To this marriage eight children have been born: Edward, Emma C., Selmer, Peter, Josephine M., Mary, Carl Odin and Clarence O. (deceased).

**Rasmus C. Spande**, one of the early settlers of Preble, was born in Norway, May 4, 1831, and at the age of eighteen secured employment in a mercantile establishment in Stavanger, not far from his birthplace. April 16, 1854, he set sail for America, and on June 24, of that year, located in section twenty-seven, Preble township. In 1854 he married Serine Tostensdatter, by whom he has ten children.

**Albert Spande** was born in Newburg township, March 18, 1871, son of Bjorn and Anra (Kingstad) Spande, who came to America in 1854, pre-empted a quarter section of land in Fillmore county, cleared the farm, prepared it for cultivation and carried on general farming for many years. Albert, the son, grew to manhood on the old homestead. After graduating from a course in the Decorah Institute, at Decorah, Iowa, he became a teacher at nineteen years of age, serving in Winneshiek county, Iowa, two months, and then in Newburg and Preble townships until 1896. In 1897 he bought 120 acres of timber land, cutting the timber, grubbing the land and cultivating the soil. He now owns 433 acres on sections eighteen, nineteen, twenty-nine, thirty and thirty-one, and carries on general mixed farming, raising stock and owning a dairy herd of twenty-five cattle. He also owns nine horses and raises about seventy-five hogs annually. He attends the Lutheran church. A Republican in politics, he has been prominently identified with public life, having been elected supervisor for one term, justice of the peace for six years, and road overseer for many years, until the system changed. In 1898 he married Amelia Johnson, a native of Norway, and to them have been born three children: Anna Margaret, born in 1899, and Milton and Alton, twins, born in 1902.

**Anton H. Dammen** was born in Amherst township, October 26, 1864, son of Hans H. and Carrie H. Dammen, natives of Norway, the former a blacksmith by trade who brought his family to the United States in 1851, settled in Elgin, Clayton county, Iowa, and continued to follow his trade until 1855 when he came to this county and located in Amherst, where he pre-empted a quarter section, and worked on his claim for two years, later growing discouraged and returning to his former home in Nor-

way, but not finding things as he hoped, returning after a comparatively short stay to this county, farming until some twenty years ago, and then making his home with various members of his family. His children were: Hendrick, Mary, Lesa, Carrie, Bertha, Annie, Anton H. and Andrew. Anton attended the country school in his district and assisted his parents on the home place. When nineteen years of age he began going to South Dakota for his summers, working five seasons, for his brother, Hendrick. Later he and his brother bought 100 acres together, subsequently acquiring the old homestead. This was later divided. Anton H. now owns 200 acres in section six, Preble, and section one, Amherst. He follows general farming and keeps about thirty head of cattle, twenty-five sheep and six horses and raises from forty to fifty hogs annually. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican, and has been director of local school board. He was married in 1892 to Tella Ask, who was born in Preston township, February 4, 1871. They have adopted one son, Lee.

**Ole G. Haugen** was born in Preble township, April 7, 1867, son of Gullick and Martha (Erickson) Haugen, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1852, settled first at Coon Prairie, Wis., and later removed to Stillwater, where the father was employed as a woodsman during the winter months and in a saw mill summers, eventually moving to Fillmore county and locating on a farm in Preble township, where the subject of this biography was born. Ole G., attended the district school when a boy and worked on the home farm until he attained his majority, after which he rented a farm on shares for four years, later going to North Dakota for two years. He then returned to his old home in Preble on account of the illness of his father, who died March 4, 1895. Subsequently he purchased the homestead, to which he has since added, now owning 230 acres on sections thirty, thirty-four and thirty-five. He has about fifty-seven head of cattle and ten horses, and annually raises about eighty-five hogs. Being a staunch Republican he has been elected to represent the people of his township in many of its public offices and was treasurer of the school board for six years. Among business interests, he owns stock in the Mabel elevator. After the death of his sister's husband, Ed. Elefson, Mr. Haugen assumed charge of her farm of 120 acres on section twenty-seven, Preble. He married Christina Storlie on December 8, 1898, and to them were born two children: Gilman Clifford and Melia Benson. Mrs. Christina Haugen died on September 11, 1908, and the home is looked after by Mrs. Ed. Elefson. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Ludvig H. Larson**, was born on the farm which he now occupies, May 20, 1877, son of Jacob C. and Anna Maria Larson, who were born in Norway, there educated and later married. In 1860 these parents came to America and settled in Preble township, where the father engaged in farming until the outbreak of the war, when he enlisted and went South with his regiment. He served for his adopted country until the end of the war, after which he again returned to his home in this county. Ludvig, the son, spent his early years in obtaining a common school education and has always lived on the home farm, which he now works on shares. The old homestead comprises 160 acres on section twenty-five, Preble, and eighty acres are on section thirty in Houston county. Among many business interests with which Mr. Larson is identified is the Spring Grove Grain and Stock Company. He is affiliated with the United Lutheran church, and a member of its board of directors. He belongs to the Republican party and is clerk of the school board in his district.

**Charles A. Housker** was born in Preble township, where he now resides, June 12, 1881, son of Issac and Karina Housker. During his early years, the subject of this sketch went to the district school, and assisted with the duties of the home farm. When he became twenty years of age, he started operating a farm for his father on shares. In 1906 he bought a farm, which he operated for three years, after which he disposed of the property and bought his present place of 163 acres on section thirty-six, where he does general farming and raises cattle, sheep, horses and hogs. He is actively interested in the political affairs of the township, being a member of the Republican party, and has served as clerk of the school board, which office he holds at the present time. October 1, 1902, Mr. Housker married Annie Stigen and to them were born: Arthur, Rudolph and Amelia. Mrs Annie (Stigen) Housker died December 26, 1908, and on October 4, 1910, Mr. Housker married Laura Nordvick, who has born him one child, Thelma.

**Edward Iverson**, prosperous and respected native citizen of Preble township, was born January 24, 1859, son of Christian and Bertha (Housker) Iverson, natives of Norway, who came to America in the early days and located in Illinois, later coming to Minnesota and taking a farm in Preble, where the father broke and cultivated his property and carried on general farming for the remainder of his life. Edward was ever an ambitious boy and when not attending school was acquiring valuable knowledge of general farming by assisting his father, with whom he remained until 1881. Being then twenty-two years of age, the

subject of this biography started in life for himself and went to Holstad, Minn., where he was employed for two years. At the expiration of that period of time, he returned to Preble and bought a farm, which he operated for five years and then sold. In 1888 he bought of S. S. Hookland his present property, which comprises 200 acres on sections twenty-nine and thirty-four in Preble and forty acres on section three in Newburg township. He has improved his farm and made it one of the well kept places in the community. He carries on general farming and dairying, keeps thirty head of cattle for general dairy purposes and fifteen horses for farm and driving. He owns stock in the Mabel elevator and has various business interests. Politically he is affiliated with the Republican party and among public offices which he has occupied is that of treasurer of the school board for six years. In 1882, March 13, he was united in marriage with Martha Hookland, who has borne his seven children: Sibert, Clarence, Alfred, Edwin, Blanche, Roy and Lea. With his family Mr. Iverson attends the Methodist church, of which body he has long been an esteemed member.

**Anton Housker** was born in Preble township on the farm which he now owns and operates, January 1, 1874, son of Isaac and Karina Housker, who came to America from Norway, their native country, in 1866, and to Preble township that same year, buying the present homestead. On February 24, 1908, the father passed away and the mother now lives with the subject of this sketch. Anton Housker spent his boyhood years as do nearly all boys who are born and reared on farms. He went to school in the district near home and was employed on the home farm. In 1902 he bought the old homestead of 160 acres on section thirty-six. He owns thirty head of good dairy cattle, seven horses and a few hogs, and carries on general farming with a marked degree of success. He is a Republican in political views but has been too occupied with the many duties on the home farm, to seek public office, though he has served as pathmaster. He was married December 13, 1904, to Lena Itsa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tobal Itsa, and they have three children: Constance Amelia, Clifford Alvin and Amy Clarissa.

**Carl T. Kjos** was born in Arendahl township on August 9, 1872, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Kjos, natives of Norway, who settled first in Dane county, Wis., and later came to Arendahl, where the father now resides, the mother having passed away some years ago. Carl T. attended school until eighteen years of age and helped with the work on his father's farm for many years, also working out to some extent. In 1896 he bought eighty-five acres

in section seven, Rushford township, where he now carries on general farming, raising Shropshire sheep, Poland China hogs, graded cattle and farm horses, and doing some dairying. A Republican in his political convictions. Mr. Kjos has never sought public office, though he has been elected to serve as a member of the board of directors for school district 160 for a period of two years. On February 26, 1902, Minnie Solberg became his wife and to this marriage have been born three children: Norman, a student in Rushford; Alta and Clifford. The family belongs to the Lutheran church and contributes to the support of that organization.

Gerhard Byholt, one of Norway township's highly respected citizens, was born in that township April 23, 1874, son of A. S. and Gunild Byholt. Gerhard attended the common schools until seventeen years of age. Being fond of books and school he then passed the teachers' examination and for four years taught in this county. He then returned home and worked with his father on the family farm, which he later bought. He now owns 180 acres of land in sections twenty-two and twenty-three, and has 140 acres of this under cultivation, engaging in general farming and giving especial attention to stock. He has about thirty head of dairy cattle, raises from forty to sixty hogs annually, and keeps seven head of Percheron horses. In 1909 he erected a large and beautiful house which is one of the finest in this township, which is noted for its fine homes. In 1894 Mr. Byholt was united in marriage with Hilda Hanson of Preble township and to them have been born four children: Martha, Gerda, Stella and Herbert. The family worships at the Highland Prairie Lutheran Church. In political views Mr. Byholt is a Republican and has repeatedly been elected to offices of trust and responsibility. He was assessor three years, town clerk four years and treasurer of school district fourteen for fourteen years. He is secretary and manager of the creamery at Bratsburg, secretary of the Farmers' elevator at Rushford and vice-president of the Preble Mutual Insurance company. In 1911 he was elected to represent the barley growers of this section before the Pure Food Commission in Washington, D. C.

William Williams, a representative farmer of Norway township, was born in Norway, March 20, 1853. With his parents, William and Karn Williams, he came to America during the year of 1866. The family came west to Iowa after their arrival in the United States and located on a farm, where the father and son broke the land and prepared it for the planting of crops. They carried water for more than a mile as wells were scarce in those

days and conveniences few. The father died in 1900. William, the subject of this biography, remained with his parents on the home farm and moved with them to Fillmore county in 1875, settling in Norway township. He bought the home farm in 1900 and now follows general diversified farming and stock raising. He has ever been both industrious and ambitious and has prospered as the years have passed, being now a stockholder in the Norway creamery and also owning shares in the Rushford Elevator Company. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and is affiliated with the Republican party.

**Martin Gilbertson** was born in Norway township in 1873, and now rents for cash the farm of 160 acres in section 35, Norway township, on which his parents, Even and Elesa Gilbertson, settled when they came to America in 1872. Martin was married March 8, 1912, to Belle Knutson, born in Norway in 1873. Martin is a good farmer and pays cash rent. He has a suitable number of domestic animals and a full line of farm equipment. His brother, Carl E. Gilbertson, was also born in Norway.

**Jacob Austin**, progressive farmer, living on section 31, Preble township, was born in Norway on September 4, 1875, son of Ole J. and Gunhild (Schie) Austin, both of whom are now residing in Stavanger, Norway. The subject of this sketch was educated in his native country and came to America in 1892. After arriving in Minnesota he was employed by farmers in this county for several years, after which he went to North Dakota and there homesteaded a claim of 160 acres, which he later disposed of in trade for the farm of 153 acres which he now occupies in Preble. This property has been sold to Ed. Erickson, who is to take possession on November 1, 1912. Mr. Austin carries on general farming, keeps about fifteen head of cattle, raises fifteen hogs a year and has six good horses for general farm and driving purposes. Politically he is affiliated with the Democratic party but has never sought public office. He married Malinda Anderson, March 19, 1905, and they have three children: Oma, Gordon and Emilie.

**Colbin Thorson** was born in Pilot Mound township in 1865, son of Elling and Martha (Knutson) Thorson, natives of Kros-erod, Norway. These worthy people came to America in 1860, located first at Beloit, Wisconsin, and the following year moved to this county and located in Chatfield township, there purchasing a farm. Two years later they sold this property and bought one in Pilot Mound. They sold this in 1869 and again moved to

Chatfield, and bought a farm which they operated until 1875, when he sold out, thereafter living on rented farms. Colbin, the son, was given a common school education and remained at home working for his father until 1887. During that year he rented the property on which he resides at the present time. This farm comprises 360 acres located on section 7, Pilot Mound, and 80 acres in Chatfield township. Mr. Thorson owns 40 acres in section 20, which he rents to Ole Pikop. He carries on general farming and stockraising, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and guinea fowls. In politics he has long voted the Republican ticket. He has served on the school board for four years and occupied the office of pathmaster for five terms. He has also served as collector for the Root Prairie church and as auditor of the Pekin church. When a lad of fourteen years Mr. Thorson went to Polk City with his father, covering the distance by means of a team of oxen. They took a claim there which they released after eight months and came back to Chatfield. November 19, 1892, Mr. Thorson married Inger, daughter of Ole and Annie (Iverson) Thrulson, and they are the parents of Edne Odin, born June 18, 1896.

**Edward Erickson**, deceased, one of the well-known and highly esteemed citizens of Preble township, was born in Norway, April 6, 1847, and spent the years of his boyhood in his native country attending school and acquiring the valuable knowledge which was the foundation of his success later in life. His parents, Erick and Elizabeth Erickson, never came to this country, but lived and died in Norway. Edward came to America in 1874 and upon his arrival in Minnesota, secured employment of various farmers in this county. In 1891 he bought 80 acres on section 32, and there toiled and saved, becoming more prosperous with each succeeding year. In 1872 he married Oleana Julson in Norway, who accompanied him to America two years later. To them a family of thirteen children were born: Bertha, Erick, Brady, Elizabeth, Henry, Oscar, Minnie, Edwin, Clara, William, Julia, Dena and Stella, of whom Bertha married Andrew Rasmussen and lives at Highland, this county; Elizabeth is the wife of Herbert Pierce, of Iowa; Minnie married Nels Ford and lives in Houston county, and Clara is Mrs. Albert McCallum, of Stacy, Minnesota. On July 12, 1900, Mr. Erickson passed away. His widow now owns the home farm, which is operated by their son, Brady.

**John C. Hanson** is a native of Minnesota, born in Lanesboro, July 15, 1870, son of Mons and Martha Hanson, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1861 and settled on Highland Prairie, this county. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the Union



Army, was sent to the front, where he served with honor to himself and his adopted country until the close of the war, and was honorably discharged March 25, 1865. After the war he returned to Fillmore county and later bought the present Hanson farm in section 5, Preble. The Hanson family united their efforts in making an excellent farm from the wild land. The father died on April 25, 1909, and was survived by his wife only till December 31, of the same year. J. C. received his education in the common schools and has always lived on the home farm. He follows general farming, has a good herd of from fifteen to twenty head of cattle, keeps eight horses and a few sheep, and raises from thirty to fifty hogs annually. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In political struggles he is a Republican, and though he never sought high office he has been road overseer three years. On April 6, 1911, Mr. Hanson married Belle Anderson, born in Holt township, January 4, 1873, and to them a child was born May 8, 1912.

**Andreas P. Hatling** was born in Norway, November 20, 1839, son of Peter and Ellen Hatling, life-long residents of that country. Andreas received his education in the common and parochial schools of his native country. In 1869 he came to the United States and settled in section 2, township of Preble, where he owns a fine farm of 280 acres. He grubbed and broke this land and followed general agriculture a long period. For many years he has not done any active farming, and his son, Martin P., now operates the farm, which is well stocked and equipped with all modern conveniences for the proper conduct of a large farm. Martin P. also operates his own farm of 140 acres in section 11. Andreas Hatling is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican. He married Andriana Norgaard and to them were born seven children: Martin P. married Gena Gilbertson Sandsness and they have two children, Levane Ellsworth and Alpha Bernice. Olga married Mandius Johnson, and they reside in Rushford. Stella is at home. Andrew died in 1909.

**Casper Erlandson** was born in Christiania, Norway, October 12, 1842, son of Nicholi Erlandson. Casper lost his mother when but two days old. He received his schooling in the common and parochial schools of Norway and in 1869 came to America and settled in Preble township, this county. For some time he grubbed land and did other work for farmers. In 1873 he purchased his present excellent farm of 160 acres in section 11, where for nearly forty years he has been busily engaged in general farming, 115 acres being in a high state of cultivation. The first large barn

which he erected was struck by lightning and burned. This was a severe loss to him at the time, but was long since made good by other and more substantial buildings. Mr. Erlandson has a herd of twelve to fifteen general purpose cattle, raises five to ten hogs annually, and keeps three horses for farm and driving. He is a deacon in the Lutheran church. In politics he usually votes with the Republican party. He has been town supervisor and road overseer, and was for nine years treasurer of the school district in which he resides. He was married in Christiania, Norway, April, 1865, to Maria Jacobson, and to them were born eight children: Isabel, Julia, Nicholi, Maria, Martin, Emma, Carl and Olga.

**Torger O. Solie** is a native of Ringerike, Norway, where he was born December 26, 1842, son of Ole and Annie Solie. His parents both died in Norway, their native land. He received his schooling in the common and parochial schools of Norway, where he lived till he was eighteen years of age. He then joined a party of his countrymen and came to the United States. He came directly to Minnesota, and here in this county worked out two years. With his savings he bought two oxen and a plow. The following year he took contracts to break land for farmers. By the end of that year he had money enough to enable him to purchase a farm. The land he bought was in section 18, Preble, and consisted of 160 acres of excellent land. This has since been his home, where he follows general farming. He keeps twelve head of general purpose cattle, raises from twenty to thirty hogs annually, and keeps four horses. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. In politics, being broad-minded, he usually votes with the Republican party. He has never sought political preferment, but has served several terms as road overseer and has displayed his native ability in this position as a promoter of good roads, of which we hear so much and see so little these latter days. He has also been director of the school board in district No. 8, as well as trustee of his church. Emeline Rye became his wife and to them were born eleven children, nine of whom are still living: Emelia, Oliver, Oscar, Anthony, Carl, Willie, Charlotte, Helen and Mary. After the death of his first wife Mr. Solie married Thora Tostenson in 1888. She died in 1897.

**Gilbert Hanson** is a native of Norway township, where he still resides. He was born November 22, 1876, son of Johnson and Lena Hanson, who were natives of Norway and came to America in 1862, locating first in Winona, where they lived and labored about ten years. In 1872 they came to Norway township, where

they worked for land holders. Gilbert received his education in the common schools until he was fifteen years of age, since which time he has entirely supported himself. Formerly he worked out for farmers, but since his marriage he has rented land. He married Maris Ness, August 1, 1905. She was born October 28, 1877, at Sheldon, Houston county, Minnesota. This union has been blessed with three children: Henry Benhard, Adeline Geneva and Mildred Gelana. Mr. Hanson now owns all the machinery he uses on this farm of eighty acres which he rents in Preble township, and keeps ten head of general purpose cattle and other stock necessary to the proper conduct of a small farm. He is a member of the Lutheran church and in politics is a Republican.

**Milo Bathrick** was born at Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin, in 1849, son of Otis and Florence (Miller) Bathrick. The father was a native of Worcester, Massachusetts, and later a resident of Indiana, from which state he moved to Wisconsin in 1841. In 1857 he moved to Rushford with his family, erected the first stone building in the town, and for some years conducted a general store, which he eventually disposed of to B. O. Daley, after which he engaged in farming for the remainder of his life. His death occurred in 1892. Milo, the son, received his early schooling in Rushford, and upon completing his studies in 1873 secured employment in the mill at that place. After remaining for several months in the mill, Mr. Bathrick decided to engage in farming, so bought land, and for the succeeding ten years carried on agricultural industries. In 1883 he returned to Rushford and entered the Rushford City Mill, where he is now employed. Mr. Bathrick has occupied various public offices and he is a man respected by all with whom he has dealings, of either business or social character. He married Alice Smith and to them five children have been born: Alice, Lettie, Ambrey, Maude and Leo. Alice, the wife of Peter Ogard, has two children, Matthew and Alice. Lettie married Helmer Peterson and has one child, Helma. Mr. Bathrick served as a school board member nine years.

**Ole G. Millie**, an energetic and progressive citizen of Norway township, is now operating a 600-acre farm, which he rents of M. A. Maland on shares. Mr. Millie owns a farm comprising 160 acres located on section 21. Born in Eidsvold, Norway, on March 28, 1849, there the subject of this sketch grew up and attended school. His parents, Gilbert Olson and Ingebor Maria Millie, were born and spent their entire lives in Norway. In 1879 Ole G. came to America and to this county, locating in Norway township, and there renting a farm, where he began agricul-

tural operations. Mr. Millie is a Republican in political opinions and he has occupied various public offices in the township, having been elected clerk of the school board and also road overseer. He is both sensible and far-seeing in carrying on the work of his farm, and the general well-kept appearance of the property under his management proves conclusively that he takes more than ordinary interest in his farming. He married Annie Maria Hoel on January 11, 1871, and they have become the parents of Gilbert, Ole, Martin, Oleana, Martin, Nicoline, Andrew, Alma and Nicolai, of whom Martin the first, Alma and Nicolai are deceased.

**Jacob A. Jacobson** was born in this county August 9, 1872, son of Andrew and Helga Jacobson, natives of Norway, who came to the United States in 1867 and after saving sufficient money purchased a farm. Jacob received his schooling in the common schools and was of considerable assistance to his parents on the home farm, doing the work that the average farmer's boy is required to do during his school days, and then continuing to work on the home farm. For a time he worked out. He later went to Dakota two years. On his return he rented land. He now operates eighty acres on section 36 of Norway township, and has the farm stocked for successful operation. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican. In June, 1902, he married Clara Hoff.

**Lars C. Jenson**, a native of this county, was born in Norway township April 14, 1861, son of Christian and Bertha M. (Stenagaard) Jenson, natives of Norway who came to America in 1853, first locating in Wisconsin and later coming to this county and homesteading 160 acres in Norway township, which had to be grubbed and broken. They labored under great difficulties for many years, the water even having to be hauled for several miles. The father died in 1898 and the mother now lives with her sons, John and Thor. Lars C. received his education in the common schools and assisted his parents on the home place till he grew to manhood. With the exception of a year in North Dakota he has spent his life in this county, working for farmers or renting land for himself until 1900, when he bought his present place of 160 acres in section 35, Norway township, which is in a high state of cultivation. He follows general farming and usually keeps about twenty-five head of general purpose cattle, nine horses, and other stock as is needed. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In political ideas he is a Republican. He has always been active to secure the greatest good to the largest number of farmers in his locality, and was interested in the organization of the Bratsburg Creamery, in which he is a stockholder. The same could be said of the telephone lines of the township. Though he has

never sought political preferment he has held some of the minor offices with much credit. Mr. Jenson was married July 14, 1883, to Tilda Erickson, born in Norway township, November 24, 1863. This union has been blessed with twelve children. Clarinda, Catherine, Christian, Benhard, Tena, Ida, Ruth and Lillian are all living. John Helmar, Tina Jeanette, Cora and Leonard are deceased. Clarinda married Henry Eiken. John Helmar, a most promising young man, caught cold while in North Dakota and this developed into a serious ailment. He was born December 21, 1883, and died May 26, 1908.

**S. I. Norgaard** was born in Norway on the last day of the year 1842, son of Iver and Marsta Norgaard, who came to the United States in 1866 and settled in Norway township, this county, on the land which now comprises the farm of S. I. Norgaard, the soil being originally covered with a brush and grub growth which was removed only by long, hard labor. While attending the common schools the subject of this sketch put in all his spare time assisting his parents to make a home on the site they had chosen. When his parents died he was given the farm because of his hard work in winning it from the wild state in which they first took it. He now owns 240 acres, 80 of which is in section 34, Norway township, and 160 of which is in section 3, Preble township. He follows general farming and has from twenty to thirty head of general purpose cattle, raises annually from fifteen to twenty hogs, and keeps six horses for farm work and driving. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church. In political activities he usually votes the Republican ticket, but always for the man he considers most worthy. In 1891 he was united in marriage with Jennie Ingleson, and to this union have been born five children: Olga Marie, Eda Malinda, Albert, Leonard and Iwend.

**Alfred G. Rustad** was born where he now lives in Norway township, September 16, 1885, son of Gullick and Carrie (Tangen) Rustad, natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1867 and located in Norway township. They were hard working and thrifty and in 1877 had saved enough money to purchase a farm of 160 acres partly on section 36 of that township and partly over the county line. They here made their family home and lived contentedly among their friends, many of whom they had known in the old country. To them were born eight children: Belle, Annie, Lava, John, Martha, Christian, Carl and Alfred. Alfred received his schooling in the common schools and assisted on the home farm, which he now works for his mother. He has a herd of twenty to twenty-five general purpose cattle, raises about twenty-five hogs annually, and keeps six horses for farm

work and driving. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he votes with the Republican party, and has always been active in those affairs which he believed would be for the public betterment. He is a stockholder in the Bratsbury Creamery and in the Farmers' Elevator of Rushford City.

**Bernt M. Westby**, a prominent citizen of Norway township, was born January 1, 1872, in that township, son of Gulbrand and Maria Westby. He acquired his primary education in the common schools of the township and later completed his studies with a course in the Valder Business College, at Decorah, Iowa. He remained in his father's employ until 1895, during which year he rented the family homestead, which he operated for two years, after which he purchased his present farm of 200 acres on section 34. In addition to his farming he operates a threshing machine and wood cutting outfit. In political opinions the subject of this biography is a Republican and he has been elected to serve in many responsible public offices, having been clerk of the school board for twelve years, town assessor for two years, and pathmaster for a similar period of time. In all these various capacities he has given general satisfaction. September 5, 1895, he married Caroline Gilbertson, born May 27, 1872, daughter of Olaus and Isabel (Erickson) Gilbertson. To Mr. and Mrs. Westby six children have been born: Oscar Gerhard, Edgar Melvin, Oscar Gerhard, Clarence Bernhard, Carl Herbert and Lawrence Milford. The eldest child, Oscar Gerhard, died January 11, 1903. The family attend the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Jens Christian Meinick Magelssen** was born in Norway on June 28, 1843, son of Wilhelm Christian and Maren Dorothea Marie (Christie) Magelssen, who passed their lives in their native country. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Norway and completed his studies with a course in an agricultural college there. In 1888 he decided to leave the land of his birth and consequently embarked for America. Upon his arrival in the United States he proceeded west to Minnesota and here settled in Norway township, where for a time he rented a farm on shares. During the year 1895 Mr. Magelssen purchased forty acres on section 28, where at the present time he is engaging in agricultural operations. For many years Mr. Magelssen has taught in Norwegian schools in and about the township, being well fitted for this work and giving it his earnest efforts, meeting with approval in his methods and retaining the interest and respect of his pupils. On April 10, 1874, he married Tora Maria Magelssen, daughter of Thorbjorm Lekve and Maria Magdalena (Tschudy) Magelssen. To this union have been born Maria

Magdalena, Thorbjorm Wilhelm, Finn, Ingeborg, Trygve, Frithjof, Aslang, Borghild, Wilhelm Christian, Lief (deceased); Christian, deceased, and Jens Christian Meinick. Wilhelm Christian operates the home farm during the months that his father is teaching. Maria Magdalena is the wife of William Byer.

**Ole Landsverk**, deceased, was born in Norway June 29, 1849, son of Halvor and Margaret Landsverk. He received his education in Norway, there grew to manhood, worked at farming for many years, and in 1884 sailed for the United States. Upon arriving in this county he settled in Norway township, where he had many friends, and where he secured employment. After three years he purchased land in Holt township, but later sold this and rented land for five years. Subsequently he bought the present home farm of eighty acres on section 28, Norway township, where he followed general farming till near the time of his death, which occurred March 18, 1902. In politics he voted with the Republican party but never aspired to public office. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Highland Prairie. On May 3, 1876, he married Gunvor Running, and to this union were born nine children, six of whom are living: Halvor, Tolof, Harold, Carl, Andrew and Bertha. Carl and Andrew are now working the farm for their mother.

**Rev. Peter Isberg** was born in Hardanger, Norway, July 22, 1850, and in 1867 he left his native land in the sailboat *Helvetia* and after seven weeks of buffeting by the stormy Atlantic landed in Quebec. He came directly to Chicago and later to the neighborhood of Beloit, Wis., where he helped do farm work. He then went to Iowa and joined some of his relatives there, working as hired man for farmers about three years. During his early years he determined to prepare himself for the ministry. In 1870 he entered Decorah College, where he followed his studies until the year 1875, studied one year at the German Lutheran Seminary of Springfield, Illinois, and took a final course for two years at Madison, Wisconsin, and was ordained in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, by the Rt. Rev. J. Frick. The following year receiving a call to Alpina, Michigan, he went there. He remained there three years and then accepted a call to Perry, Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained as pastor seven years. He then came to Rushford township and for a time lived on the old Gjernes homestead, where his wife was born and had made her girlhood home. The farm work here to be engaged in was pleasant enough, but let no one having been a minister of the gospel for years get the idea that he is the best of farmers. So here it resulted in Isberg going to Stanwood and vicinity, Washington, where he had charge of

ministerial work for about seven years. In 1895 his family came back to the home farm near Rushford while he stayed in the west and took up contracting. In 1905 contracting and carpenter work was promising in and about New Westminster, B. C., Canada, and Mr. Isberg went there and stayed a time. In 1910 he was sent to the convention of the United Lutheran church in St. Paul, and from that convention returned to his family home in this county. On June 11, 1878, he married Gudveig Gjernes, a native of Fillmore county, daughter of Styrk Gjernes, one of the earliest settlers of Rushford township. To this union have been born six children. Helga is a teacher in the county schools and lives at home. Anna married Oscar Berland of South Rushford. Alfred Michael and Styrk Egbert are at home. Ida died in infancy while the family was living in the state of Washington. Maria, the youngest, is at home.

**Christian G. Westby** was born in Norway, July 11, 1862, son of Gulbrand and Maria Westby, who brought him to America when he was seven years of age. For the first two years of their residence in this country they lived in Iowa, after which they moved to Minnesota and bought railroad land in Norway township, this county. Christian G. worked for his father on the home farm until he reached twenty-two years of age and then started for himself. He went to North Dakota for a time and then returned to Norway, where he rented a farm for one year. Then he went to Montana for three years. Upon his return to Norway township he bought "Lone Ridge," his present valuable farm of 240 acres on section 26, one of the well kept and productive places in the locality. Mr. Westby follows general farming and stock-raising, owning ten good horses for farm and driving purposes. He is a stockholder in the Norway Creamery and the Rushford Elevator. He is a Republican in politics and has served for three years as supervisor of the township. On June 28, 1894, he married Dora M. Elefson, who has borne him nine children: Mildred, Grace Udit, Ella Henrietta, Irvin Benhart, James Martin, George Oscar, Carl Myron, Joseph Gerhard and Doris Christina. Carl Myron died February 14, 1908.

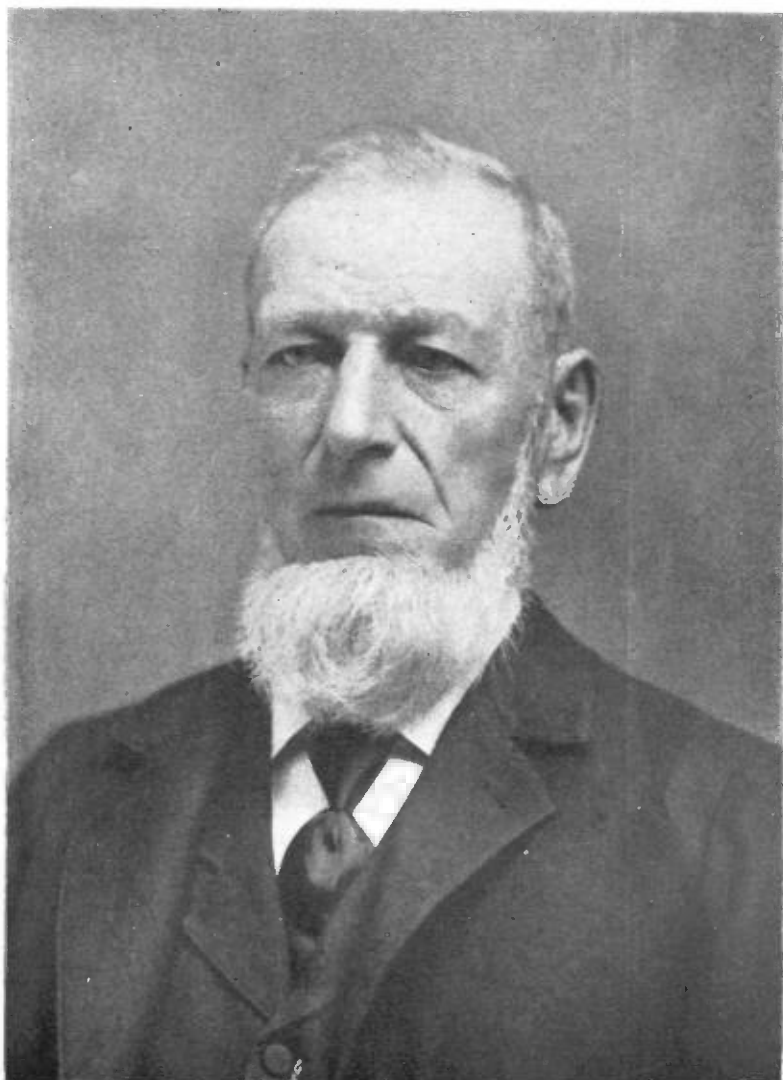
**Hans G. Westby**, a prosperous farmer residing in Norway township, was born in Norway, June 27, 1860, son of Gulbrand and Maria Westby, with whom he crossed the ocean to America during the year 1869. After living two years in Iowa they came to this country and located in Norway township, the father dying March 14, 1901, and the mother now making her home with her son, Hans G. The subject of this sketch purchased the home place in 1898, now owning 200 acres in section 27. He follows general



farming, owns about thirty head of dairy cattle, and keeps eight horses for general farm work and driving. Affiliated with the Republican party, Mr. Westby has served in many public offices, among which are treasurer of the school board for several years and also pathmaster. Among his varied business interests he owns stock in the Norway Creamery and Rushford Elevator. He married Stena Byholt December 11, 1898, and to them have been born: Gunter Arthur, on March 5, 1899, and Maria Genevieve, April 6, 1901. The family is identified with the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**Niles Carpenter** was born near Buffalo, N. Y., in 1825. In 1856 he came to Highland Prairie, Holt township, this county. When he became county auditor he moved to Preston, and later located in Rushford. He was interested in the banking business for many years. His part in the official life of the county is told elsewhere.

**Oliver Wilson**, one of the first settlers of what was then Rushford township, is one of the venerable figures of the county, honored and respected for what his long years have meant to the people of the county. Ripe in years and judgment and wisdom, he is a worthy example to the younger generation of what a poor boy may by industry, integrity and application accomplish, though lacking the early advantages which so many receive. He was born in Norway, March 13, 1836, and at the age of eleven years was brought to America by his parents who settled in Winnebago county, Wisconsin. In 1852 he went to Illinois and worked a year for a farmer whose place was near Belvidere. In 1853, at the age of seventeen years, he came to this county, driving oxen for Erick T. Lien. Several others were in the same party. This was the second settlement in what is now Rushford township, Oliver (or Havlor, as he sometimes signed himself) Goodrich and Ole Olson Tuff being the first settlers. The subject of this sketch being too young to take a claim, worked out as a farm hand until 1856, when he bought 160 acres in section 20, Rushford, and began farming on his own responsibility. The land was wild, times were hard, and advantages were few. Life was lonely, for the nearest cabin was at Spring Grove. But with undaunted courage Mr. Wilson set at work. He erected a log shanty twelve by fourteen, furnished it as best he could, and here made a home for his widowed mother. Diligently he set at work breaking and developing his land. As time passed he prospered. Farming at first occupied his attention, and later he turned his thoughts to stock breeding. Later in life he bought



OLIVER WILSON

and sold horses, shipping by the car load. His own horses were of the pure Norman strain, and for some time he kept four stallions of this superior breed. For fifty-nine years he has made his home on his farm, and has added to his possessions from time to time until he now owns 680 acres in sections 20, 21 and 29, Rushford. For the past thirteen years he has rented his land and lived practically a retired life. Being so prominent a man it is natural that Mr. Wilson should be called to service in various public offices. He has occupied his present office of treasurer of Rushford village (township) for the past thirty years; he was town chairman two of the ten years he served as supervisor, he was assessor as long as he would consent to serve, he was road overseer of the village (township) for three years, and he was clerk of school district 17 for fifteen years. He has also served in other offices of public trust and private honor. In a business way he has been treasurer of the Rushford Creamery for many years. One of Mr. Wilson's greatest inspirations in life was the companionship, assistance and encouragement given by his devoted wife. From his marriage to Ingebor Svendseid until her death, November 10, 1892, she was all that a wife could be, looking after her household duties, rearing her children, giving devout attention to her religious duties, and making her house a true home in every sense of the word. Eleven children blessed the Wilson home. Julia C. married John Melby, of Canby, Minnesota. Amos Ole, Oliver, Torgon and Mary are deceased. Henry Theodore is a successful farmer of Rushford. Helga Amelia is dead. Emmah and Bertha live in Rushford. Hanna M. married Stanton Peterson, of Brandt, South Dakota. Clara is now Mrs. Alfred Tew, of St. Paul.

**George Spencer West** was born in South Wilbraham, now Hampden, Massachusetts, January 23, 1822, son of Stephen and Lucinda (Hummiston) West, both natives of Massachusetts, the former being a harness maker and an extensive leather dealer. George S. received his education in the public schools of South Wilbraham. After leaving school he remained with his father in the leather business, and then learned daguerreotyping, a profession which he followed at Brattleboro, Vt., for eight years. In 1855, desiring to benefit his health, he came to Fillmore county and located on a farm east of the city of Rushford. The next year he erected a home from the first timber sawed in the Root river valley, this being the first frame house erected within a radius of ten miles of Rushford. He also drove the first four-wheeled vehicle which passed over the territorial road surveyed between Chatfield and Rushford. Settling in a comparative wilderness, Mr. West succeeded by dint of hard work

and untiring efforts and the West farm became known far and wide. In 1872, owing to ill health, he rented his farm, retired from active life, and built a home in South Rushford, where he ended his days, December 14, 1896. Mr. West was married July 3, 1860, at Rushford, by the Rev. W. W. Snell, to Mary Isabella Cameron, born in Glengarry county, Canada, January 19, 1845, daughter of John and Mary (Chisholm) Cameron, the former a native of Ontario, and the latter of Nova Scotia, who came to the United States in 1848 and located in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, coming to Rushford, Rushford township, in July, 1856. Mr. and Mrs. West were blessed with three children: Dr. Herbert C., Azalia Lucinda and Mabel Genevieve. Dr. Herbert C. West attended the Rushford high school, and graduated from the Chicago Dental School, and is now practicing in Chicago. He married Myrtle Miller and they have three daughters, Lucille Myrtle, Janice and Mary Elizabeth. Azalia Lucinda married Harry J. Hirshheimer, vice president of the LaCrosse Plow Works, and they have four children: Harry W., Earl Spencer, Dora Janice and Albert. Mabel Genevieve graduated from the Milwaukee Dower Seminary, and is now a student in the Martha Washington Seminary, Washington, D. C. Mrs. West now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Harry J. Hirshheimer, of LaCrosse.

**G. E. Dorival** was born in Caledonia, Minnesota, March 27, 1878, was educated in the public schools at that place, and upon the completion of the studies there entered a newspaper office as an apprentice. He has devoted his time to that field of work since, having worked on nearly every paper in this vicinity, the greater part of his time having been spent with the Houston Signal. He came to Lanesboro from LaCrosse in November, 1909, and took charge of the Leader. He was married to Alta West September 23, 1904.

**A. M. Olstad** was born on a farm near Isinours, this county, on September 10, 1887. Upon the death of his father in 1889 the family moved to Lanesboro, where he has since made his home. He was educated in the public schools of that village and in 1903 entered the employ of the Lanesboro Leader, with which paper he has since been connected. He was married on April 23, 1912, to May Wood.

**Henry J. Eddy**, a well-liked citizen of the town of Newberg, was born in section 1, Canton township, January 14, 1857, son of Ethan P. and Julia (Onstine) Eddy, the pioneers, the former being one of the early settlers in the county, and the latter being of the Onstine family, which came to Amherst at a very early

day. Henry J. was reared on the farm and at the age of twenty-one was married to Emma F., the daughter of Daniel and Mary (Young) Newell. After his marriage Mr. Eddy erected a house on section 1, Canton township. In 1884 he purchased the John Wilsie place in section 6, Newberg township, where he now lives, having a well cultivated farm and a fine complement of buildings. He belongs to Canton Lodge, No. 214, I. O. O. F., and has identified himself with the progress of the community in various ways. Mr. and Mrs. Eddy have nine children: Edgar, Jettie, Lulu, Ethel, Elmer, Grover D., Ruth M., Leland M. and Henry. Jettie is the wife of Olvan Hegland, Lulu is the wife of S. D. Knutson, of Crosly, N. D.; Ethel is the wife of Theodore Anderson. Edgar and Elmer are also married.

**Nels T. Redalen**, deceased, was born in Pilot Mound township in 1876, son of Tollof and Marie (Solie) Redalen, natives respectively of Wisconsin and Norway. He was given a common school education, which he supplemented with a high school course at Chester, Iowa, after which he devoted his life to farming. On September 29, 1899, he married Hannah A. Carlson, daughter of Ole Carlson, and to this marriage were born three children: Mabel Theresa, Orvis Theodore and Neil Hiram. After marriage Mr. Redalen bought seventy acres in section 15 and there carried on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of raising horses for farm purposes and sale. He was affiliated with the Republican party and served as constable for two terms, also as road overseer for a similar period of time. In all dealings Mr. Redalen was respected for his honesty and was ever ready to give assistance to all enterprises which tended toward the betterment of his township and county. His death occurred on December 10, 1911, and his widow now operates the home farm.

**Ole Carlson** was born in Norway in 1842, son of Carl Olson Ottness and Metta (Hanson) Ottness, his wife. The father came to America in 1867, lived a time in Pilot Mound township, went to Randville, Minnesota, where he spent many years, and then returning to Pilot Mound township, where he made his home with his son. Ole was reared in Norway, served three years in the standing army, and in time came to America. When opportunity afforded he purchased a farm in Pilot Mound, where for many years he carried on general farming. He has served in school and town office, and is highly regarded throughout the community. He was married in 1871 to Catherine, daughter of Ole Ellingson and Anna (Maland) Berg, who in 1865 came to America, located in Illinois, lived there five years, and in 1870 came to Arendahl township, this county. This union was blessed with seven chil-

dren: Anna Maria, Oscar, Olan Tena, Joseph, Hannah Amelia, George (deceased) and George. Olan Tena married P. Herman-son. Hannah Amelia married Nels Redalen. Joseph married Anna Sorbo. Oscar, the distinguished superintendent of Fillmore county schools, married Della E. Luick.

**Dryden Smith** was born in Pike county, Illinois, March 10, 1826. His father, John M. Smith, was of Scotch-Irish blood, and a native of Pennsylvania, born in the Susquehanna valley, in 1782, son of a pioneer who in 1785 settled in Bourbon county, Kentucky, where the boy, John M., grew to manhood and obtained a good education for those early frontier times. With some other young Kentuckians in 1804, John M. accompanied Lewis and Clark from St. Louis to Council Bluffs in their expedition to Oregon. He was intended by his father for the legal profession but had military aspirations which the times and society in which he lived were well calculated to keep alive. He raised a company of Tennessee Riflemen and stood at their head at the battle of New Orleans, and after the close of the war of 1812 was for five years a captain in the regular army, assisting in building Forts Rock Island and Peoria. In 1822, he settled on a farm in the Mississippi bottom, in Pike county, Illinois. He commenced business at Galena, Illinois, in the fall of 1827, and moved his family there in 1828. In the spring of 1830 he rode on horseback from Galena across the uninhabited prairies of Illinois to his brother's, twenty miles east of Vincennes, Indiana, where he was attacked with a fever and died on July 18, 1830. He was a kind husband, an affectionate father, a brave soldier, a lover of his country, a Democrat, and a hater of aristocracy. Frances Smith, the mother of Dryden Smith, was of Scotch ancestry, born in Saratoga county, New York, March 15, 1796, daughter of Abijah Smith and Susannah Wilkinson Smith. She left Albany in May, 1817, and arrived in Illinois, which was then a territory, in September of the same year. After her husband's death she returned with her children to the old farm in Pike county, Illinois, where she reared them to majority. She died January 2, 1877. Dryden Smith, the subject of this sketch, was the fifth child and fourth son of his mother's family. He spent the springs, summers and autumns of his boyhood in cultivating the old farm, and the winters in studying at home or going to school. In 1842 he helped a neighbor, who had a contract to furnish the garrison at Forts Crawford and Snelling with beef, to drive a herd of cattle from near St. Louis to Prairie du Chien. During the trip he saw much of the then wild but beautiful country of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. He began the study of law in 1848, and voted the Free Soil ticket for president. He married on September 29,

1849, Elizabeth A. Hines. His health failed on account of too close confinement to books during the winter of 1848 and 1849. To restore it he discontinued study and in 1850 and 1851 engaged in farming. In 1852 he visited St. Paul and traveled over the then sparsely settled counties of northeast Iowa, and in July of the same year examined the part of Fillmore county which now constitutes the towns of Newburg, Canton and Bristol. Mr. Smith settled in Decorah, Iowa, in the fall of 1853, was admitted to the bar as attorney and counselor at law in the spring of 1854, and commenced the practice of that profession in connection with a land dealing business, though spending much of his time as an active assistant of the great statesman, Senator Grimes, in his fight with the then pro-slavery Democracy of Iowa. Mr. Smith in 1860 settled in Spring Valley, a place he had visited in 1853 and to which he had directed many of its first settlers. He was judge of probate of Fillmore county from 1863 to 1870. Judge Smith died February 22, 1899, at the home in Spring Valley where he had lived continuously since 1860, leaving surviving him his widow and the following children: Hamilton H. Smith, Mary E. (Smith) Meighen, Virgil D. Smith, Fannie C. (Smith) Kelly, Edward E. Smith, Florence (Smith) Nash, Milton Smith, Josie (Smith) Granahan, and Ada Smith.

**Erick I. Torgerson**, a highly respected resident of Arendahl township, is a modern farmer in every sense of the word, and has one of the best places in his neighborhood. His comfortable residence, his commodious barns, his farm equipment, his sleek stock, and his well kept acres, all speak of his thrift, shrewdness and energy. Mr. Torgerson was born March 8, 1861, son of Over and Britta (Roseter) Torgerson, natives of Sogn, Norway, who came to America in 1856, first locating in Dane County, Wisconsin, and one year later coming to Minnesota. The father drove cattle owned by Erick Roise from Dane county to Arendahl township, and as payment for this work was loaned two oxen with which to transport his family here. Coming to this country practically penniless, he gradually, by dint of hard work and excellent management, became prosperous and eventually owned 700 acres of land in sections, sixteen, seventeen, twenty-one and twenty-three. Erick, the son, was educated in the common schools of this county, and when a boy was employed by his father working on the home farm. He now owns 320 acres in sections eight and sixteen, and in connection with his general farming industries, raises pure-bred Shorthorn cattle, owning "Star of Lunde." He also owns the pure-bred Belgian horse, "Sans None Denock," and raises many Poland China hogs and White Leghorn chickens. Mr. Torgerson annually disposes of about twenty head of cat-

tle and seventy-five hogs. He raises from thirty to forty bushels of barley to the acre and seventy-five bushels of corn, this remarkable yield being the result of scientific cultivation and abundant fertilization. Formerly the land produced nothing but wild oats, but its present valuable condition is due to efforts of Mr. Torgerson. Having long been a staunch adherent to the Republican party, he has been elected to serve in his community as town supervisor, assessor, road overseer and constable. He is clerk of district 36. In a business way he is a director in the Arendahl creamery and a revisor in the Farmers' elevator at Peterson. The subject of this biography married Mary Wraalstad and they are the parents of Bertha J. (deceased), Henry J. (deceased), Henry C., Ida J., a graduate of Jewel College of Music, now attending music school in Minneapolis; Irving E., a graduate of the Lanesboro high school, now studying in State University to become a civil engineer; Ida M., Ella (deceased), Ella (deceased), Neil T., Earl M. (deceased), and Harvey B. The family are members of the Hague Norwegian Lutheran Church of Arendahl, of which Mr. Torgerson is treasurer. The subject of this sketch is vitally interested in school work, putting forth every effort for the benefit of children in the neighborhood, that they may have the best of school advantages.

**Ole J. Oian** was born on the old homestead adjoining the farm where he now resides in Rushford, December 24, 1863, son of Ole O. and Gunhild Oian. The parents came to America in 1857, lived two years in Muskegon, Wis., and then came to Rushford township, and purchased land on section thirty-four, where they spent the rest of their lives. Ole J. was educated in the common schools of the county till about fourteen years of age, when he took up the work of a grown man on his father's farm, continuing to assist at home till he was twenty-nine years of age. He then rented land for the following nine years, and by hard work and economy was then able to buy 160 acres in sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight, Rushford, where he has since lived. He now owns 240 acres in Rushford township and forty acres in Norway township. He keeps from twenty to twenty-five head of cattle and some sheep; raises from twenty to twenty-five hogs annually, and keeps five head of horses for farm work. In politics, Mr. Oian is a Republican, but has been too busy with his farm and family to give much time to public affairs aside from those pertaining to his immediate locality. He is a member of the Rushford Lutheran church. On March 18, 1893, he married Gunhild Grönlid, a native of Norway. This union has been blessed with six children: Tina, Gerhard, Ella, Orle, Alice and Emil.





THE OLD SCOTLAND SCHOOL

**Lars Knudson**, who resides in section thirteen, Arendahl township, was born near Stavanger, Norway, in 1844, son of Knud and Brita Torbjornson Jorvig, who, with their children, emigrated to America in 1866, when Lars, the subject of this biography, had grown to manhood and was twenty-two years of age. They all settled in Arendahl township and Lars Knudson has made his residence here ever since. In 1869 Lars Knudson married Mrs. Betsie Johnson, and the united efforts on their part succeeded in creating a happy home and a promising future. This union was blessed with three children: Sarah, Karine and Christian. In 1889 Mrs. Knudson died. Lars remained a widower, his children staying with him, except Karine, who married L. B. Johnson and resides at Tacoma, Wash. Through untiring energy and hard work, Mr. Knudson has made his home and farm of 420 acres one of the well improved places in the community. He carries on general farming, raising horses, cattle and hogs for market. Politically he has long been a member of the Republican party, but never aspired or ran for office. He has served as road overseer for some time. The family are respected members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**L. H. Larson Hesby** was born on the farm which he now occupies May 20, 1877, son of Jacob C. and Annia Maria Larson Hesby, the former born near Christiana and the latter in Stavanger. The father enlisted in the army in 1861 and went west and fought in the Indian War. He returned in 1862 and then fought in the Civil War until its end, then returned home and was married in 1866. Then they settled where they now reside and engaged in farming. To them were born six children. L. H. Larson, the oldest, John L. Hesby, now residing in Buffalo S. D., farming; Edward L. Hesby, at the carpenter trade; Hannah L. Hesby, working at home; Otto L. Hesby, now in Canada, farming; Enos James L. Hesby, working at home. The old homestead comprises 160 acres on section 25. Eighty acres are on section 30 in Houston county. Among many business interests which Mr. Larson Hesby is identified is the Spring Grove Grain and Stock Company. The family is affiliated with the United Lutheran Church. Mr. H. Larson Hesby is a member of its board of directors. He belongs to the Republican party, and is clerk of the school board in his district.

## APPENDIX I.

## PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

**Importance of the Medical Profession—The Hardships of the Pioneer Doctors—Fillmore County Medical Society—Fillmore Eclectic Medical Association—Houston-Fillmore County Medical Society—Fillmore County Physicians.—Edited by Dr. George A. Love.**

"Men most nearly resemble the gods when they afford health to their fellow men."

In an age when, in the combat of man against man, heroes are worshipped according to the number they slay in battle, it is inspiring and elevating to be permitted to pay tribute to the men who won glory fighting disease and through whose devotion and skill thousands of useful lives have been saved and been made happy.

For every man slain by Caesar, Napoleon and Grant in all their bloody campaigns, Jenners, Pasteur and Lister have saved alive a thousand. The first anaesthetic has done more for the real happiness of mankind than all the philosophers from Socrates to Mills. Society laurels the soldier and the philosopher but practically ignores the physician. Few remember his labors, for what Sir Thomas Browne said three hundred years ago is surely true: "The iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy and deals with the memory of men without distinction to merit to perpetuity."

Medicine is the most cosmopolitan of the three great "learned" professions. Medicine never built a prison or lit a fagot, never incited men to battle or crucified any one. Saint and sinner, white and black, rich and poor, are equal alike when they cross the sacred portals of the temple of Aesculapius. No other secular profession has ever reached such a consciousness of duties which it corporately owes to the rest of the world. What are the principles which a profession, more profuse in its disinterested charities than any other profession in the world, has established for its guidance?

It was about 2,300 years that the the practitioners of the art of healing began to take an oath emphasizing the responsibilities which the nobility and holiness of the art imposed upon them. Hippocrates, forever to be revered, gave the oath his name.

Robert Louis Stevenson, seeing the life of the medical man only from without, was not far wrong when he spoke of the modern scientific medical man as probably the noblest figure of the age. The noble and exalted character of the ancient profession of medicine is surpassed by no sister science in the magnificence of its gift. Reflecting upon its purity, beneficence and grandeur it must be accorded to be the noblest of professions. Though the noblest of professions it is the newest of trades. Unless the physician will live a life of purity, of virtue, of honor and of honesty, he should seek a livelihood elsewhere, and "insult not the gods by striving through base methods and ignoble ambitions in resembling them."

The true physician will make his profession no trade, but will administer his duties with the love of man

in his heart and the glory of God in his soul, his aim will be; to be accurate in diagnosis and painstaking in prescribing; to allow no prejudice nor theory to interfere with the relief of human suffering and the saving of human life; to lay under contribution every source of information, be it humble or exalted, that can be made useful in the cure of disease; to be kind to the poor, sympathetic with the sick, ethical toward medical colleagues and courteous toward all men; to regard his calling as that of one anointed to holy office, firmly convinced that no nobler work can be given to man and to go forth to his labor with love for humanity, inspired with a reverent assurance that for this cause he came into the world.

The reward of such a man, says Prof. T. Gaillard Thomas, "comes from the hand of no emperor; his glory from the appreciation of no applauding multitude; his renown from the pen of no fulsome historian. For him the victor's crown comes from the hand of the immortal God. He that has done the greatest good for his fellow man, has, in the doing of it, won the greatest reward in earth's possession, even though no mortal man know of the deed but him!"

The true physician is he who has a proper conception and estimation of the real character of his profession; whose intellectual and moral fitness give weight, standing and character in the consideration and estimation of society and the public at large. His privileges and powers for good or for evil are great; in fact no other profession, calling or vocation in this life occupies such a delicate relation to the human family.

There is a tremendous developing and educating power in medical work. The medical man is almost the only member of the community who does not make money out of his important discoveries. It is a point of honor with him to allow the whole world to profit by his researches when he finds a new remedy for disease. The greatest and best medical and surgical discoveries and inventions have been free gifts to suffering humanity the moment their value was demonstrated. The reward of the physician is in the benefit which the sick and helpless receive, and in the gratitude, which should not be stinted, of the community at large. Medical men are not angels; they are in fact very human creatures with hard work to do, and often many mouths to feed; but there is a strain of benevolence in all their work. From the beginning they are taught a doctrine of helpfulness to others, and are made to think that their life work should not be one in which every service must receive its pecuniary reward. The physician is a host in himself, a nat-

ural leader among his fellow-men, a center of influence for the most practical good, an efficient helper in times of direst need, a trusted and honest citizen. What more can any prophet ask than honor in his own country and a daily welcome among his own friends!

It does not take long for the waves of oblivion to close over those who have taken a most prominent and active part in the affairs of the day. The life of the pioneer doctor is no exception to this law, for as Dr. John Browne tells us, "It is the lot of the successful medical practitioner to be invaluable when alive, and to be forgotten soon after he is dead, and this is not altogether or chiefly from any special ingratitude or injustice on the part of mankind, but from the very nature of the case." However, the pioneer physician still lives in the memory of many of us, though he is now more rare as an individual than in the years gone by, and is gradually passing out of existence. The history, written and unwritten, of the pioneer physician of Fillmore County, as elsewhere, presents him to view as working out the destiny of the wilderness, hand in hand with the other forces of civilization for the common good. He was an integral part of the primitive social fabric. As such he shared the manners, the customs, the aims, and the ambitions of his companions, and he, with them, was controlled by the forces which determine the common state and the common destiny. The chief concern of himself and companions were materially engaged with the serious problem of existence. The struggle to survive was, at its best, a competition with nature. Hard winters and poor roads were the chief impediments. Only rough outlines remain of the heroic and adventurous side of the pioneer physician's long, active and honored life. The imagination cannot, unaided by the facts, picture the primitive conditions with which he had to contend. Long and dreary rides, by day and night, in summer's heat and winter's cold, through snow, and mud, and rain, was his common lot. He trusted himself to the mercy of the elements, crossed unbridged streams, made his way through uncut forests, and traveled the roadless wilderness. He spent one-fifth of his life in his conveyance, and in some cases traveled as many as two hundred thousand miles in the same.

He was a lonely worker, and relied largely on his own unaided observation for his knowledge. Isolated by conditions of his life, he did not know the educating influences of society work. He was a busy man, with little leisure for the indulgence of literary or other tastes. He possessed, however, what no books or laboratories can furnish, and that is: a capacity for work, willingness to be helpful, broad sympathies, honesty, and a great deal of common sense. His greatest fame was the fealty of a few friends; his recompense a final peace at life's twilight hour. He was a hardworking man, beloved and revered by all. He was discreet and silent, and held his counsel when he entered the sick-room. In every family he was indispensable, important, and oftentimes a dignified person. He was the adviser of the family in matters not always purely medical. As time passed, the circle of his friends enlarged, his brain expanded, and his heart steadily grew mellow. Could

all the pleasant, touching, heroic incidents be told in connection with the old doctor it would be a revelation to the young physician of today; but he can never know the admiration and love in which the old doctor was held. "How like an angel light was his coming in the stormy midnight to the lonely cabin miles away from the nearest neighbor. Earnest, cheery, confident, his presence lightened the burden, took away the responsibility, dispelled the gloom."

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has graphically described the old doctor's daily routine: "Half a dollar a visit—drive, drive, drive, all day; get up in the night and harness your own horse—drive again ten miles in a snow-storm; shake powders out of a vial—drive back again, if you don't happen to be stuck in a drift; no home, no peace, no continuous meals, no unbroken sleep, no Sunday, no holiday, no social intercourse, but eternal jog, jog, jog in a sulky."

He always responded to the call of the poor, and gave freely his services to those who could not pay without hardship. Who can narrate the past events in the life of such a man? His deeds were "written upon the tablets of loving and grateful hearts, and the hearts are now dust. The long and exhausting rides through storm, or mud or snow; the exposure to contagions; the patient vigils by the bedside of pain; the kindly deeds of charity; the reassuring messages to the despondent; the shielding of the innocent; the guarding of secrets; the numberless self-abnegations that cannot be tabulated, and are soon forgotten, like the roses of yesterday." Wealth did not flow into the old practitioner's coffers; in fact, he needed no coffers. He was a poor collector, and with all his efforts he obtained but little, and never what was his due. As an offset to the generally acknowledged abilities of the old doctor in every other line of his work, it must also be admitted that he was usually deficient in business tact. Often content with the sentiment of apparent appreciation of services rendered to his patrons, of lives saved, of sufferings assuaged, and of health restored, he was too easily satisfied with the reflection that he had a very noble profession, but a very poor trade.

Though poor in purse, he was rich in heart, in head, and in public esteem. He made at least a very measurable success of life, if success consists in being of some small use to the community or country in which one lives; if it consists in having an intelligent, sympathetic outlook for human needs; if it is success to love one's work; if it is success to have friends and be a friend, then the old doctor has made a success of life.

Fillmore County Medical Society.—This association was organized in the fall of 1862. The first meeting was at the office of L. Redmon, M. D., in Preston, and about ten members constituted the society at that time. The objects were for mutual benefit, particularly to increase the medical knowledge and skill of the members. The first officers of the society were: President, R. W. Twitchell; vice-president, H. Wilson; treasurer, A. H. Trow; corresponding secretary, G. M. Willis; secretary, T. E. Loop. The other members were Lafayette Redmon, Luke Miller, J. M. Wheat, M. Downley, C. H. Robbins, R. L. Moore, A. Plummer, A. F. Whitman, H. Pickett, J. A. Graves, H. C. Grover, R.

W. Hoyt, and M. A. Trow. For several years the society was in an active condition. There was a regular fee bill, and other accessories to such a society, and it had a vigorous growth and life, but the interest finally declined, and in 1879, it passed out of existence. The last officers of the society were: President, R. L. Moore; vice-president, H. C. Grover; treasurer, L. Redmon; secretary, A. F. Whitman.

**Fillmore Eclectic Medical Association.**—This society was organized July 31, 1869, at the office of Dr. O. A. Case, in Preston. The first officers of the society were: O. A. Case, President; John A. Ross, George A. Lone, J. J. Morrey. The organization kept up until 1876, when it was dissolved.

The Houston-Fillmore County Medical Society was organized May 2, 1904, at Preston. The first officers were: President, W. E. Browning; vice-president, W. B. Grinnell; secretary, F. A. Drake; treasurer, L. K. Onsgard. The present officers are: President, J. T. Dunn; vice-president, W. B. Grinnell; secretary, O. F. Fischer; treasurer, L. K. Onsgard. The present members are: W. E. Browning, J. D. Utley, F. A. Gowdy, G. R. Reay, J. C. Hooslef, G. M. Helland, J. C. Laurin, C. W. Woodruff, L. K. Onsgard, Cyrus B. Ebby, J. T. Dunn, F. A. Drake, George

A. Love, O. F. Fischer, C. K. Onsgard, H. A. Nass, T. Jensen and D. C. Rhines.

**County Physicians.**—The following county physicians have been appointed to serve for the year 1912:

**First District.** Dr. C. K. Onsgard for Norway, Rushford village and city, Peterson, and Arendahl. Dr. A. P. Lommen for Holt, Carrolton, Whalan village, and Pilot Mound.

**Second District.** Dr. A. W. Powers for Fountain, south half of Chatfield, and south half of Jordan. Dr. C. W. Woodruff for north half of Chatfield, north half of Jordan and all of Sumner.

**Third District.** Dr. W. N. Kendrick for Spring Valley town and village, Bloomfield and Beaver. Dr. J. T. Dunn for Wykoff village, Fillmore and north half of Forestville. Dr. E. V. Simons for south half of Forestville, and all of York.

**Fourth District.** Dr. F. A. Gowdy for Harmony and Bristol. Dr. Geo. R. Love for Preston town and village (including Fillmore county jail) and Carlmona.

**Fifth District.** Dr. C. W. Cady for Newburg, Mabel village, and Preble. Dr. O. A. Kibble for Canton and Amherst (including poor farm) at a salary of \$87.00 per annum.

## APPENDIX II

## POSTOFFICES

**Beginning of the Postal System — First Postal Service in America — First Postoffice in Fillmore County — Names of Early Offices — History of Present Offices — Establishment of the Rural Routes.**

The postal service is a feature of government as old as the written history of man. The influence and accomplishments of the postal service have practically extended the progress of commercialism throughout the world. So far as history records, a system of communication was evidently conceived by Cyrus shortly after his conquest of the Persian empire in the year 550 B. C. That systematic ruler sought to keep in touch with the affairs of his vast domain, and to that end required his governors to write to him frequently about their several districts. In order to make these communications safe and expeditious he built post roads throughout the empire and established posthouses at distances along these roads. The service, however, both in ancient and medieval periods was established for the government alone and not for the general public.

The first postoffice which was established for the general public was in 1516, between Berlin and Vienna. In 1523 England established a postal system, but it was only used for communications between members of the royal family.

The postal system in America dates from 1639, when the General Court of Massachusetts, by an ordinance, legalized such a system and directed that all letters brought from across the sea or to be sent to parts of the colonies, should be left at the house of Richard Fairbanks, in Boston, and by him sent to the proper destination. He was allowed a Penny compensation for the transmission of each letter and was accountable to the authorities for any dereliction of duty. The postal system, however, in the early colonial days, was somewhat of a go-as-you-please system.

Benjamin Franklin, the father of our postoffice system, was appointed postmaster at Philadelphia in 1737, and in 1753 he was appointed deputy postmaster general for the Colonies.

In 1776 there were but twenty-eight postoffices in the Colonies, fourteen of these being in Massachusetts.

In 1785 the Colonies decided to manage the postal business on their own responsibility, and appointed Benjamin Franklin postmaster general at a salary of \$1,000 a year, authorizing him to establish postoffices from Maine to Georgia.

President George Washington, in 1789, appointed Samuel Osgood, of Massachusetts, the first postmaster general of the United States. At that time there were but seventy-five postoffices, yielding a revenue of less than \$40,000 a year. The rate of postage was six cents for thirty miles and up to twenty-five cents for 450 miles.

Today we have over 60,000 postoffices, yielding a revenue of over \$200,000,000. About a thousand million letters and postal cards are now dis-

tributed in the United States every month. The service has grown and expanded to such a degree that twenty years ago would have been considered extravagant, and yet the service is practically in its infancy. But it already forms an intricate network over all our land and extends to the far-off island possessions, and yet its achievements are not nearly at an end.

The first rural route in the United States was established in the fall of 1896. Fifteen thousand dollars was expended during that fiscal year.

The first postoffice in Fillmore county was established in 1854. Early in the spring of that year the settlers residing in the northeast part of township 101, range 9, (Canton) the south half of township 102, range 9, (Amherst) and the northwest part of township 101, range 8, (Newburg) made arrangements with Elijah Austin who resided on the west half of section 11, 101, 9, (Canton) to get their mail once a week from Burr Oak postoffice in Winneshiek county, Iowa, which was on the Brink & Walker stage route from Dubuque to St. Paul, until a postoffice could be established and a postmaster appointed on Richland Prairie, Minnesota. A postoffice was established Sept. 1, 1854, with Elijah Austin as postmaster. Feb. 26, 1856, E. F. Tillotson was appointed postmaster. June 30, 1856, Ole H. Valder was appointed mail carrier. April 25, 1858, Michael H. Onstine was appointed postmaster. These commissions are still in the possession of M. H. Onstine of Henrytown, and are interesting relics of the early history of the county.

Other postoffices were established in 1854, and soon every little stopping place on the stage lines was designated a Postoffice, with its regularly appointed postmaster.

Even after the railroads came through, the little villages still retained their offices. In 1882 there were no less than thirty-nine postoffices in the county as follows: Alba, Amherst, Arendahl, Boomer, Bratsberg, Bristol, Canfield, Carimona, Chatfield, Cherry Grove, Clear Grit, Eliota, Etna, Fillmore, Forestville, Fountain, Granger, Greenleafon, Hamilton, Hurdal, Harmony, Highland, Isinours, Lanesboro, Lenora, Mabel, Newburg, Peterson, Pilot Mound, Preble, Preston, Prosper, Rushford, Scotland, Spring Valley, Washington, Whalan, Watson Creek and Wykoff. Other postoffices were established later as mentioned in the various township histories.

Since November 1, 1900, when the first rural routes were established in this county, there has been a gradual decrease in the number of offices there being at present fifteen as follows: Chatfield, Spring Valley, Ostrander, Wykoff, Fountain, Peterson, Whalan, Rushford, Lanesboro, Preston, Har-

mony, Canton, Mabel, Prosper and Granger. All but Granger are at railroad points.

Spring Valley Postoffice was established in June, 1855. John M. Smith, who was expecting the appointment as postmaster, went down to Decorah, Iowa, with an ox team and brought home a breaking plow, a load of flour, and the documents from Washington. The office was opened in a building on what is now the Crawford Kellogg farm, east of the village. Thomas C. Watson, the owner of the land, expected that the village of Spring Valley would be established there.

In 1856 the office was moved to the present site of the village, and opened with Willard Allen as postmaster, on the southwest corner of Broadway and Jefferson street. At first the mail came from Decorah at intervals of about two weeks. The arrival of the bare back rider dispatched for it was a great event. Afterwards it became a "star route" so called, from Elliot, by way of Forestville. Later the mail came from Chatfield. Finally Spring Valley was placed on the La Crosse, Rushford and Austin stage route, receiving mail daily. In 1869 the railroad came through, and the office was designated as a money order office.

After Willard Allen had served as postmaster, John M. Smith again became postmaster, with George Wilder as deputy, and moved the office to the store he had opened at the southeast corner of Courtland street and Broadway. When B. F. Farmer became postmaster he moved the office to J. F. Stevens' store, on the present site of the First National Bank. Later he moved it to the east side of Broadway, about midway between Courtland and Jefferson streets. D. A. Sullivan followed B. F. Farmer, and established the office in his harness shop, on the west side of Broadway, in the place he still occupies, just south of the present postoffice. W. L. Kellogg moved the office to its former location on the east side of the street, midway between Courtland and Jefferson streets, and S. M. Wilder kept the office at the same place. E. W. Thayer moved the office to its present location on the west side of Broadway, a few doors north of Courtland street. He served as postmaster for nine years. Sidney J. Huntley became postmaster in January, 1911. Goldie Caswell is assistant and E. W. Thayer, clerk. The gross receipts for 1911 amounted to \$7,552.81.

Spring Valley has four routes, the postoffices at Washington and Hamilton having been discontinued in 1903. Routes 1 and 2 were established Nov. 1, 1900, the first carriers being F. H. Viall and J. H. J. Week. The present carriers are D. C. Hendershott, Jr., and George W. Plummer. Routes 3 and 4 were established March 2, 1903. M. B. Rumsey the first carrier on route 3, resigned in 1911, and his place was taken by Edward E. Derby. A. S. Baldwin, the first carrier on route 4, resigned in 1910 and his place was taken by Christopher J. Nesheim.

**Preston Postoffice.**—In the earliest days, the people of Preston went to Carimona for their mail. In 1855 the Preston postoffice was established, and mail was brought here by the stage line of Wheeler & Nichols. The first postmaster was Luther Preston, in honor of whom the town was named. He was a millwright and a good mechanic, and a gentleman of honor and integrity, but during his administra-

tion there were some postal irregularities. Thefts of the mails were traced to this office, and he was arrested and tried and sent to the state prison, although the belief is universal that he was not guilty. Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, it is certain that his remaining silent before his accusers, and submitting to bear the punishment and obloquy of the crime, was an act of heroism. As a slight measure of reparation he was soon pardoned.

Following Mr. Preston came T. J. Eames, D. B. Coleman and W. B. Conkey. Oct. 4, 1867, the office was authorized to do a money-order business. After W. B. Conkey came B. S. Loomis who served from Jan. 15, 1874, to Aug. 10, 1885. Thomas Hall served from Aug. 10, 1885, to Oct. 31, 1889; C. Peterson from Oct. 31, 1889, to Jan. 1, 1894; M. C. Shook from Jan. 1, 1894, to Feb. 5, 1898. Laurence O'Brien, the present competent postmaster, took office Feb. 5, 1898, and has served continuously since that date, giving general satisfaction. He is assisted by Hulda Hahn, a genial and efficient official.

Luther Preston kept the postoffice in his building on the south side of Main street, a short distance east of St. Anthony street. It was moved to the Conkey building on St. Paul street; from there to the present site of the Kerr restaurant, west of the courthouse square; from there to the old Tom Hall building on the southeast corner of Main and St. Paul streets. It was there about eight years. April 8, 1898, it was moved to the Odd Fellows' building, north of courthouse square. March 29, 1902, it was moved to its present location east of courthouse square.

Preston is the center of five rural routes. On July 1, 1902, the offices at Carimona, Forestville, Prairie Queen, Healy and Bristol, were discontinued into this place, and on Oct. 14, 1905, the patrons of the offices at Greenleaf, Hutton and Isinours began receiving their mail by rural route from this office.

The office was originally fourth class. It was raised to the third class in the early day, reduced to the fourth class in 1887, and the following year raised to the third class. The gross receipts for 1911 amounted to \$5,261.44.

Route 1 was established Nov. 1, 1900, Frank Ashton being the first carrier. Routes 2, 3 and 4 were established July 1, 1902, the first carriers being Ezra P. Fifield, Archie V. Ashton and Frank M. Davis. Route 4 was established Oct. 16, 1905, with Dan W. Flynn as carrier. The present carriers are: 1, Elva L. Palmer; 2, Ezra P. Fifield; 3, H. C. Clark; 4, George S. Kaump; 5, Carl M. Hanning; substitutes, Lella Fifield, Mary Clark, Gust Knutson.

**Harmony Postoffice** was established in 1872. Previous to that time postoffices bearing the names of Peterson and Windom had flourished near the present site, but they became extinct at this date. The first postmaster, P. T. Larson, served until 1887. Following him came J. A. Lund, 1887 to 1889; Tosten J. Johnson, 1889 to 1892; A. G. Gray, 1892 to 1895; M. McCarty, 1895 to 1899; S. Aaberg, 1899 to 1911. Lewis O. Haugen was appointed in 1911, and is now serving. The assistant is O. N. Thundale, and the clerk, Heima Erickson. Harmony postoffice became a money order office in 1889; a third

class office, Jan. 1, 1907; and a postal savings bank office, Nov. 10, 1911. Three rural routes were established July 1, 1902. R. O. Fosburgh, F. J. Clark and F. C. Bastian, the first carriers of routes 1, 2 and 3, respectively, are still serving. The postoffice has been located at, or near, its present site for the past twenty-five years. The quarters were enlarged when the present postmaster took charge in 1911, and new fixtures and equipment installed. It is now said to be the best furnished third class office in this part of the country.

**Whalen Postoffice** was established in the earliest days of the village in the store of Carr & Smith, with John Carr as postmaster. Other early postmasters were Mr. Ward, J. Walker, Dr. Ring and A. Backman. The office is located in the center of the town, on the southwest corner of block 11, west of the Milwaukee station, which is in the same block. The two story frame building in which it is housed, is owned and occupied by the postmistress and her family. The present postmistress, Mrs. Myrtle V. Haasarud, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Dunham, of Spring Valley, received her appointment Oct. 2, 1911, succeeding her husband, L. H. Haasarud, who held the office for nearly fourteen years, and resigned to accept another position in the grain business. There are three rural routes, the carriers being: 1, T. L. Helland; 2, John Bostrack; 3, H. M. Manson. These routes were established July 1, 1902. The first carriers were: 1, O. A. Roningen; 2, K. J. Bostrack; 3, E. H. Thompson. The office is fourth class, with registry and money order departments. Clara Hildested is chief clerk. The postoffices at Highland and Rud have been discontinued to this point.

**Fountain Postoffice.**—The first postoffice which served the farmers of this vicinity before the village of Fountain was established, was called Farmers Grove, and was located about two or three miles northwest of the present site of Fountain and was presided over at different periods of time by John Vaughn, Dexter Frink, James Scott and others whose names cannot be learned. Upon the establishment of the office at Fountain, about 1870, it was placed in charge of Aleck Kerr, who was postmaster until the appointment of Dr. A. W. Powers, who held the office from 1873 to 1875 inclusive. Dr. Powers was succeeded by John Halverson, who served from 1876 to 1879. R. C. Bellus served from 1880 to 1884. T. A. Sorenson served from 1885 to 1889 except a part of the year 1886, when O. D. Hicks held the office. Patrick Mangan was postmaster from 1890 to 1893, and Michael McDermott held the office from 1894 to Jan. 14, 1898, after which Patrick Mangan was again placed in power. L. S. Scott, the present capable postmaster, has served since July 1, 1907.

Rural route No. 1 was established Aug. 1, 1902, carrier, Martin L. Cummings. Rural route, No. 2 was established Oct. 15, 1905, carrier, Nell Nilson. The same carriers are still serving. There is also a lock pouch service between Chatfield and this office.

**Rushford Postoffice.**—The first postoffice was established in Rushford in the summer of 1857, with C. G. Hilbert as postmaster. Some time in the late sixties the office was moved from the private residence of the post-

master into a store building situated on the northeast corner of the same block in which the present postoffice building is now located.

With the election of Lincoln in 1860 a change of postmasters followed. Hiram Walker was the next named and was succeeded by G. W. Willis, he in turn by Geo. W. Graham and Samuel G. Iverson. Dennis Murphy served two months and was succeeded by Peter C. Hill. Next came L. J. Ambie, who served during 1889 and 1890; Geo. E. Kirkpatrick, 1891-1892 and Edward Hallahan, 1893-1897. Geo. E. Kirkpatrick was reappointed in December, 1897, and with the expiration of his term on April next will have served over eighteen years.

The office was made a money order station July 15, 1869, the first order issued being drawn on Stoughton, Wis. It was raised to the third class in 1898. The postal savings bank was opened Oct. 15, 1911.

Mr. Kirkpatrick started the innovation of having a lady clerk in the office, installing Ida Steeland in 1891. During his present term he has had Julia T. Olson five years, Olga Peterson seven years, Martha Moe two years and his present clerk, Selma Laugen, two years.

The following postoffices have been discontinued and consolidated with the Rushford office on account of the establishment of the rural service: Vogen, Arendahl, Hart and Bratsberg. Rural service was established July, 1902, with routes 1, 2 and 3. No. 4 in 1905, and No. 5 in 1909. The first carriers were: 1, Charles Murphy; 2, Benjamin Johnson; 3, Andreas Ness; 4, Ole K. Quarve; and 5, Mike Burke. The present carriers are: 1, William A. Parish; 2, Peter Alm; 3, Andreas Ness; 4, Ole K. Quarve; and 5, Mike Burke.

**Peterson Postoffice** was established in the decade following the Civil War. Even Kjelle was the first postmaster. William Franklin, the next postmaster, kept the office at his house. He was followed by Lars Olson (Myre) and N. Helgeson. Other postmasters have been: S. C. Thompson, O. H. Moen, I. A. Boyun, O. A. Ladahl, N. J. Ambie and J. C. Dayton.

**Lanesboro Postoffice** was established in December, 1868, with C. C. Abbott as postmaster. On July 1, 1876, Luke Miller was commissioned as postmaster. July 21, 1879, O. G. Wall was installed in the office. Following him came V. Rossig, John Muller, M. G. Fellows, C. Scanlan and H. E. Glasoe, the present official.

**Chatfield Postoffice** was established in 1854 and was located on Winona street. Edward B. Gere was appointed postmaster. He was succeeded by Samuel McLarty, who resigned in 1861, raised a company and went to the war as its captain. He was succeeded by his brother, Malcolm McLarty, who held the office until February, 1885, with the exception of the year 1867, when the office was conducted by W. L. Briley. In February, 1885, John R. Jones was appointed postmaster. He resigned in 1887 and was succeeded by Harry L. Atchison, who held the office for five years. He was followed by Major George Andrus. In 1896 came John R. Manahan, who died while in office in 1898, and was succeeded by the former postmaster, George Andrus, who held the office until October of that year, when John Chermak, the present incumbent, was appointed. His assistant is Fannie Jansick, and his clerk, Flora Mundill.



Since the late fifties the postoffice has been conveniently located in various parts of the business portion of the city on Main street. In December, 1878, it burned, but the books and mail were saved. In 1879, Mr. McLarty, the postmaster, built the brick building now occupied by the Buzzell Drug Store and kept the office there until he resigned in 1886, when it was moved to a room in the rear of the First National Bank building. About 1887 it was again moved to the Hassett building now used as a public library. It remained there until March, 1910, when it was moved to the Underleak Block opposite the Medary House, being fitted out with a completely new equipment. It was made a postal savings bank in October, 1911.

There are six rural routes from this office. Rural route No. 1 was established in June, 1900, with James Purvis as carrier; route No. 2, established May 1, 1901, Elmer Clayton, carrier; route No. 3, May 1, 1901, Corwin M. Johnson; route No. 4, May 1, 1901, Urban Goldsmith; route No. 5, May 1, 1905, George C. French; route No. 6, May 1, 1905, Elbridge A. Balcom. The present carriers are as follows: Route 1, William A. David; route 2, Otto A. Burbach; route 3, Joptha Turner; route 4, Urban Goldsmith; route 5, Lawrence Cain; route 6, Jesse Goldsmith. In October, 1901, the postoffice at Pilot Mound was discontinued and mail supplied by Chatfield and Lanesboro routes.

Canton Postoffice was established in the fall of 1879 and was called "Boomer." John Manuel was the first postmaster until James Manuel, his deputy, assumed the duties of the office in July, 1880. Following him came William Willford, Carey Abbott, R. A. Sturgeon and the present postmistress, Georgiana Sturgeon.

On January 1, 1880, Canton township had within its limits the following postoffices: Eliota, Lenora, Prosper and Canton. In April, 1882, the Eliota post office; Eliota, Lenora, Prosper first day of May, 1902, rural free delivery of mail was established with two mail routes from Canton of twenty-five miles each, which were numbered as route one and route two. The first mail carrier on route one was Irwin Harsh, followed by Homer Barnes, Roy Norton, and Willie Kimball, the present incumbent. The first mail carrier on route two was B. B. Hudson, who still is in the service. The Lenora postoffice was discontinued soon after route one was supplied with mail by the carrier. The Amherst postoffice was also discontinued to this point.

Prosper Postoffice was established and named by E. B. Clark, who was appointed postmaster and kept the office at his house. Since then the postmasters have been: Enoch Rollins, John LaPage, Joseph Ernst, F. R. Miles and Oscar Dahl. The latter is serving at present. His assistant is Ella Dahl, and his clerk, Glen Scott. A rural free delivery route was established April 1, 1903, with Roy W. Hazel as first carrier. The present carrier is John C. Rollins. The office was made a money order office, April 1, 1903, and a postal savings bank was established May 1, 1912.

Wykoff Postoffice.—In 1858, a postoffice was started in this town, in section thirty-three, and was called "Free Soil." Joseph Blanchard was the postmaster, afterward M. B. Felt was appointed. In 1872, it was removed to Wykoff and the name changed. D. J. Egleston was appointed postmaster. Charles W. Crain succeeded him in 1879. Following him came L. G. Kilborn. Fred Wendorf, the present postmaster, assumed the duties of the office July 1, 1894, and has done excellent service. The offices of Fillmore and Watson Creek have been discontinued to this point, the former on Oct. 31, 1905, and the latter on Nov. 10, 1893. Rural route No. 1 was established July 1, 1902. The first carrier was W. E. Winslow and the present one, Edward Laugan. Emil J. Affeldt, the first carrier on route 2, is still serving. A postal savings bank was established here May 1, 1912.

Ostrander Postoffice.—The postoffice at Ostrander was started in 1890, in the store of Hans Hanson and L. E. Lundby, with L. E. Lundby as postmaster. He was succeeded some two years later by H. O. Larson. Eugene Ostrander was the next postmaster, with H. O. Larson as assistant, the latter having charge of the office. Then came John Schonsby. He served some nine years. Emil Duckstad was postmaster a year, and then L. E. Lundby assumed the duties of the office, a position he retains at the present time.

The postoffices at Etna, Cherry Grove and York have been discontinued to this point. Two rural routes were established in 1899 with O. H. Gullickson and C. M. Swenson as carriers. Another was established some three years later. The present carriers are: Alfred Jameson, Herman Lundby and Ingeman Lundby.

Mabel Postoffice.—The postoffice at Mabel was established in 1879, the postoffice for this locality previous to that time having been at Bellville. The first postmaster was Fred Taylor. Since then the postmasters have been: 1881, W. C. Bacon; 1886, J. N. Hooper; 1888, E. R. Thompson; 1892, G. C. Hellickson; 1898, A. Jones; 1906, D. W. Jones to the present time. The office is located in the drug store of A. Jones & Son, and the service is giving general satisfaction to the patrons. The office was originally fourth class, and was changed to the third class, October, 1910.

The offices of Newburg, Riceford, Preble, Choice and Tawney have been discontinued into this office by reason of the rural delivery. Route 1 was established July 1, 1902, with A. A. Miner as the first and present carrier. Route 2 was established March 2, 1903, L. W. Waite being the first carrier and M. A. Carpenter the present one. Route 3 was established Oct. 1, 1904, A. H. Lageson being the first and present carrier.

Granger Postoffice is the only postoffice in Fillmore county which is not located at a railroad point. The office was established in 1857 in charge of C. H. Lewis and B. Granger. The early records are destroyed. The present postmaster, D. M. Hunt, has served for many years. Mail is received from Harmony.

## APPENDIX III

## REPRESENTATIVE CHURCHES

**Methodist—Presbyterian—Holland—Brethren—Episcopal—Congregational—Evangelical Association—German Lutheran—Baptist—Calvinistic—United Brethren—Norwegian Lutheran—The Friends—Sunday School Association.**

Fillmore county has been a church community from the days of its earliest settlement. No sooner were the pioneers housed, than they began to think about providing means for church services, and for the education of their children. It is this fact that has made Fillmore county the law-abiding, prosperous locality which it is today.

In planning the present work, the editors reserved a space for the history of every church in the county. Many pastors and secretaries have failed to respond to requests for information, and some churches, therefore, have been omitted, although the publishers would gladly have printed the history of all.

The sketches herewith given are the stories of the representative churches, and their perusal will give the reader a general idea of the inculcation and growth of the religious sentiment of the county.

## METHODIST.

The Methodist Episcopal Church has seven charges and seventeen churches in Fillmore County. The Chatfield Charge, presided over by Rev. E. C. Teachout, has a church valued at \$7,500 and a parsonage valued at \$1,500. The Fountain and Wykoff Charge (separated by the 1911 conference into the Fountain and Fillmore and the Central Prairie and Wykoff Charges) has four churches valued at \$4,300 and one parsonage valued at \$1,200. The Harmony, Granger and State Line Charge has three churches valued at \$5,700 and a parsonage valued at \$2,400. The pastor is Rev. R. J. L. McKelvey. The Lanesboro, Canton and Lenora Charge has three churches valued at \$7,000 and one parsonage valued at \$900. The pastor is Rev. William Wooley. The Mabel and Prosper Charge has two churches valued at \$4,500 and a parsonage valued at \$2,200. The pastor is Rev. W. W. Smith. The Preston, Waukoee and Carimona Charge has three churches valued at \$13,000 and a parsonage valued at \$1,200. The pastor is Rev. H. I. Pharo. The Spring Valley Charge has a church valued at \$10,000 and a parsonage valued at \$2,500. Its pastor, Rev. T. A. Jones, is one of the ablest clergymen in the county.

Early Methodism.—Organized Methodism in Fillmore County had its beginning in 1854, when Rev. Benjamin Christ held services in the historic old first schoolhouse in Fillmore County. This schoolhouse was on Richland Prairie, near the present site of Lenora. Rev. Christ organized a class of about twenty members.

In the fall of 1855, a Methodist Episcopal conference was held at Racine, Wis., and at this conference Rev.

John C. Dyer was appointed to the Richland Mission, embracing practically what is now Fillmore County and a part of Olmsted, but containing only one organized class, that at Richland Prairie. Rev. Dyer came here at once and visited the people of the organized class at the Lenora schoolhouse. He found two Methodist families at Preston and made an appointment there, after which he visited Martin Kingsbury, six miles south of Preston, in section 25, Carimona. Thence he went to Carimona Village, and from there to Rochester, then a very small village. Later he returned to the state line after visiting Spring Valley and Elliott, and stopped a time with Garwood Bursell. On this trip he arranged for a regular two weeks' circuit with eight appointments. In addition he visited Brown's Mills, now Riceford, once in a while. Every Sunday he preached two or three times and served the other appointments evenings. He also found time to take a claim in what is now section 2, Canton township, cornering near the old Lenora schoolhouse, at that time taught by William Willford, the boy schoolmaster, who with his pupils loaned the parson considerable assistance in erecting his cabin.

The first Methodist quarterly conference in Fillmore county was held in the Lenora schoolhouse Dec. 1, 1855. The first Methodist communion in the county was also celebrated at that time. Those present were James M. Graham, C. B. Willford, T. J. Eames and LeRoy Streeter. This meeting was followed by a revival series which continued for three weeks, meetings being held every evening. Among those who joined the church at this time were C. C. Streeter and Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Willford. Anthony Willford became a travelling preacher. James Bursell was also recommended to the conference but never asked to be assigned to a charge.

A short time afterward a revival meeting was held in the Bursell neighborhood, some four or five miles south of Lenora, near the state line. The day after Christmas, 1855, a class was organized consisting of twenty-two members, four or five of whom presented letters from older churches, and the rest of whom were received on probation. In two years this class had grown to fifty members.

A few days later, in January, 1856, a class was organized at the home of Martin Kingsbury, south of Preston, in the Waukoee neighborhood. Ten persons joined, but before the winter was over, this number had been increased to seventy.

In the spring of 1856, Rev. Dyer surveyed and platted forty acres of his farm as a village which he named Lenora, and deeded it to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

They were to pay him \$50.00, but in lieu of this he took two lots. The proceeds were to be devoted to the erecting of a church. A place was also cleared for a camp meeting ground in a grove on the Eastman place, southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 11, township 101, range 9, a mile southeast of Lenora. In this grove, in 1856, was held the second camp meeting ever assembled in the state of Minnesota, the first having been held in Red Wing. Rev. N. Hobart, presiding elder, and Rev. Benjamin Christ, as well as Rev.

Date were present. At the annual conference of Minnesota held in Red Wing in 1856, Rev. Dyer was returned to the same service, but the name of Richland Mission had been changed to Preston Circuit. In 1860 the annual conference was held in Preston. Thus began the history of Methodism in Fillmore County.

Rev. John L. Dyer, rough, uncouth, eccentric, was one of the noblest soldiers of the cross who ever set foot in Fillmore County. A miner in early life, he acquired some money, and then became converted. After preaching as a local preacher in Wisconsin some four years, he was ordained and received elders' orders at Racine, Wis., and was assigned to Richland Mission in Fillmore County. He labored in this vicinity six years. Undaunted by hardships this valliant Christian, wearing a dilapidated plug hat, presenting, with his gaunt, strong, rugged physique, a strange picture on his raw-boned horse, rode his circuits, enduring untold hardships and deprivations, serving his people wherever he found them. In 1856, as before related, he platted Lenora. When he came here he had \$1,600, but in going security for notes for the up-building of the church and of Lenora village, he lost his all.

May 9, 1861, he left Lenora for the West. His money and health were gone, and his sight was practically destroyed. His alleged creditors had taken his all, even his personal effects, leaving him a horse with saddle and bridle, and a carpet sack in which was contained a Bible, a hymn book, a copy of his church discipline, a copy of Lorraine's Sea Sermons, a change of linen and \$14.75 in gold.

Certainly no prophet, seeing this quaint figure disappearing into the westward, could have foretold his devotion to the miners of the West was to win him the title of Montana's Greatest citizen, or that an heroic statue of his gaunt lineaments would some day become almost a Mecca in the capitol building in Cheyenne.

First Methodist Episcopal Church of Spring Valley.—The First Methodist Episcopal church organization of which we have any knowledge in the northwestern part of the county was formed in the autumn of 1854, in a schoolhouse between John Fat's and Crawford Kellogg's, which was about one mile from the site of the present church in Spring Valley. The first preacher was Rev. Benjamin Christ, and the charter members of the class were John Bateman, Eliza J. Low, John Low and Ellen Low. At this period Spring Valley was an appointment in a circuit known as the Elk Prairie Mission.

In 1856 the Minnesota Conference was organized, and Spring Valley circuit formed one of its charges. Elijah Tate was the preacher in charge with C. Kellogg as assistant. The points of this circuit were Spring Valley,

Hamilton, High Forest, Frankford, Kedron, Jordan and Pleasant Grove. The principal members at this time were Henry Low, Eliza Low, John Bateman, who organized the class out of which the Spring Valley church grew, and Boyd Phelps, Jesse Cartlich, Joseph Cartlich, Charles Cartlich, Jacob Oakey, E. Buckingham, G. Fesler, Henry Prosser and one Masterly.

Nothing of importance transpired, according to the record, until the autumn of 1864, when John Klepper was appointed to the charge. A new parsonage was purchased for six hundred dollars. The first record book was at this time purchased. The pastorate of W. H. Soule, which lasted three years, from 1867 to 1869, was eminently successful. At this time the first parsonage barn was built and added to the church property. The church was the upper story of a blacksmith shop which was finished up for the purpose. In 1872 the first Sabbath school was organized with L. C. White as superintendent. A bell was purchased and placed over the hall, and also a new organ installed.

In the spring of 1876 lots were purchased for a church building. J. E. Whitman, M. P. Lowes, A. W. Johnson, C. W. Wagner, C. M. Clark, W. W. Bonecon, J. A. Broadbent were appointed a building committee to bring about the erection of the new building, which was begun in 1876 and dedicated by Dr. B. I. Ives of Auburn, N. Y., assisted by Dr. Chaffee, the presiding elder, in 1878. The pastor at this time was H. C. Jennings, who served a full term (three years was the limit at that time) and did very effective work. He has had a successful career at the head of the publishing interests since the General Conference of 1906.

Any history of the Spring Valley Methodist Episcopal church would be incomplete without mention of the pastorate of J. J. Christ. Owing to the great crop failures of 1878 and 1879 many of the subscriptions to the new church could not be paid and a large debt was allowed to accumulate which hampered the work for many years. Rev. Christ formulated plans for the successful liquidation of the debt. John L. Halcut, with other lay members, rendered invaluable assistance. The next pastorate of note was that of Thomas Hamby, which covered four years from 1890 to 1894. The church was redeccorated, and a new parsonage built—the one now occupied by the pastor's family—and material additions made to the church membership each year. In the pastorate of E. J. Durham, a preacher of exceptional ability, who transferred from the Rock River Conference to the Minnesota in 1902, William Strong presented the church with the present elegant pipe organ in memory of his beloved wife, Phebe Strong, who had been a devoted member of the church. J. C. Evans, a young man, was appointed to the charge in 1906 and served very acceptably until he was stricken with pneumonia and died in his third year.

The present pastor is T. A. Jones, who was appointed by Bishop Robert McIntire in the fall of 1911.

History of pastoral terms to date: Benjamin Christ, 1854 to 1856; Elijah Tate, 1856 to 1857; Zarah C. Norton, 1857 to 1858; G. W. Richardson, 1858 to 1859; F. A. Conwell, 1859 to 1860; Boyd Phelps, 1860 to 1862; Moses Mapes, 1862 to 1863; James Cowden.

1863 to 1864; John Klepper, 1864 to 1865; James J. Teter, 1865 to 1867; W. H. Soule, 1867 to 1870; Reuben Washburn, 1870 to 1872; B. Blaine, 1872 to 1874; A. C. Reynolds, 1874 to 1876; H. C. Jennings, 1876 to 1879; S. G. Gale, 1879 to 1880; T. F. Allen, 1880 to 1883; Frank B. Cowgill, 1883 to 1886; A. G. Wilson, 1886 to 1887; J. J. Christ, 1887 to 1890; Thomas Hamblly, 1890 to 1894; G. H. Way, 1894 to 1897; William McKinley, 1897 to 1899; E. M. Sutton, 1899 to 1902; E. J. Durham, 1902 to 1905; William Burns, 1905 to 1906; John C. Evans, 1906 to 1908; A. J. Croft, 1908 to 1910; W. W. Brown, 1910 to 1911; T. A. Jones, 1911 to the present time.

The minutes of the last Annual Conference, 1911, reports the number of members 211, the valuation placed upon the property holdings \$12,500. The church raises about \$1,800 annually for its current expenses and benevolent work. The business is managed by an official board comprised of the following: Louise Alard, George Beagle, Mrs. George Beagle, W. J. Berryman, Mary Berryman, John Dunham, D. P. Goodwin, J. C. Halbkett, Marie Hoffman, W. J. Hughes, C. F. Kumm, Emery Link, F. E. Maxson, Mrs. Mary Olds, G. M. Plummer, Homer Percival, L. H. Prosser, C. H. Smith, Mrs. C. H. Smith, M. W. Thompson, H. H. Wallace, Mrs. Stella Wilder, Philip Zimmerman, Roy Shepherd, C. H. Farrington.

The Sabbath school has an enrollment of 175, with an average attendance of 125. Mrs. C. H. Smith is the efficient superintendent, and W. A. Berryman the assistant. Pearl Smith has charge of the primary department and Mrs. W. A. Berryman supervises the cradle-roll and home department. The graded lessons are used and monthly missionary programs given in the school.

Mary Berryman is president of the Epworth League which has about fifty members who engage in work among the young people. The cabinet is formed out of the officials, the president, the first vice-president, Aurilla Smith; the second vice-president, Vella Tobler; the third vice-president, Myrtle Lyman; the fourth vice-president, Helen Hawks; the secretary, Emilie Kaulbarsch, and the treasurer, Loyd Tobler.

The Ladies Aid Society has a membership of forty, which very materially assists in the running expenses of the church. Mrs. Mary Olds is president; Mrs. George Beagle first vice-president; Mrs. Homer Percival, second vice-president; Mrs. Eva Leslie, third vice-president; Mrs. O. W. Kaulbarsch, fourth vice-president; Mrs. C. H. Smith, treasurer, and Mrs. Arthur Cook, secretary.

No record of the church is available from 1854 to 1864, save the minutes of the quarterly conferences which unfortunately did not record the marriages or deaths. The first marriage recorded is in 1864, on May 15, Earl Goodwin to Eliza Boxholm. Both still live in Spring Valley. The first infant dedicated to baptism was Mary Minnesota Teter, March 11, 1865. The first record of a death is that of Alfred Curren in 1864, of whom it is recorded that he volunteered and afterward died. Owing to the fact that no record was kept of the marriages, deaths and baptisms for the first ten years, much of the early history is lost.

Among those that have figured most

prominently in the church, several are here mentioned. John Bateman organized the class. John L. Halbut gave sometimes up to half of his income to help tide the church through those awful days of depression caused by the wheat failure of 1878 and 1879, and for ten years served as Sunday school superintendent. He also served on the trustee board since 1878, and is still active. Mrs. Phebe Strong was one of those devoted souls that had much to do with shaping the course of the church's activities until the time of her death. Her daughter, Mrs. C. H. Smith, is at present Sunday school superintendent, treasurer of the Ladies Society, and a member of the official board. At large expenditure of time and money she has labored constantly for the welfare of the church. This elect lady is one of God's noblest laborers in his vineyard. She is ably assisted in all her efforts by her husband, C. H. Smith, who never wearies of doing good.

Methodist Episcopal Churches of Preston, Waukoee and Carlmona.—It appears that the first Methodist minister to find his way into this part of the country, was Rev. Benjamin Christ, of the Wisconsin conference. He covered what are now the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, Winona and Wabasha. It is said that he preached several times in the vicinity southwest of what is now Preston. It has also been said that Rev. Thomas Hackney preached at the home of Edwin Pickett, in Carlmona, as early as 1854.

In the fall of 1855, Rev. John L. Dyer was appointed to the Richland Mission, which included a large territory in the southeastern part of what is now the state of Minnesota. That same fall he visited the Methodists at Preston, at Waukoee and at Carlmona, and a few months later, in January, 1856, formed a class in the Kingsbury settlement. It has been said that this meeting was held at the schoolhouse, but Rev. Dyer himself is authority for the statement that the meeting was at Martin Kingsbury's house. The original members were: Daniel Dayton and wife, Mrs. Joseph Weymouth, James Rolfe, Daniel Hurlburt and wife, Martin Kingsbury and wife, Andrew Organ and Mrs. Joseph Painton.

In August, 1856, the Methodist Minnesota Conference was organized, at Red Wing, with Bishop Mathey Simpson as presiding bishop, and Rev. Dyer was sent to Preston Circuit to continue his work. In 1857, Rev. D. O. Slyke was assigned to the Preston Circuit. In 1858 came Rev. Zara C. Norton, and the records show that he received a salary from the appointments at Preston, Waukoee, Big Springs, Bristol, Elliot, Granger, Kingston's, Carpenter's, Bursell's, Lenora and Johnson's. Nathum Tainter came next. In addition to the appointments just mentioned, he was given charge of the work at Union, Harmony, Savage's, Henrytown, Edmonds and Belleville. At the end of his pastorate there were 197 members and 90 probationers. He had two assistants, J. R. Allen and John Vaughn. Aug. 3, 1860, it was voted that the territory in the county, west of Elliot and north of Kingston's, be made a separate circuit.

Ira Ellingwood came in August, 1860, and preached at Preston, Waukoee, York, Harmony, Granger, Big Springs and Savage's. He became pastor of the United Brethren

Church. The next preacher was Alonzo Hitchcock. To the appointments left him by his predecessor he added Forestville in 1862 and Bristol Center in 1863. In September, 1864, James Dore arrived. He preached regularly at Preston, Waukoee, Big Spring, Bear Valley, Bristol Center and York. During the second year he added to his charges Granger, Stone schoolhouse and Carimona. This pastor erected the old parsonage at Preston. James H. White came in 1866. His charge consisted of Preston, Waukoee, Granger and Carimona, but during the second year Granger was dropped and Forestville taken in its place. During the second year of his administration, the society at Preston which had been worshipping first in a log house and then in the schoolhouse, purchased the brick schoolhouse and fitted it up for a church. W. C. Shaw came in 1868 and served Preston, Carimona and Lanesboro. Nothing seems to have been done with the Waukoee work this year. In 1871 came M. D. Terwilligar. In 1873, Yanesboro became a separate charge and the Preston circuit was given to J. M. Rogers who preached at Carimona, for a time at Fountain and then at Waukoee. A. B. Bishop came in 1875 and preached at Preston, Carimona and Waukoee. Near the end of his second year, Carimona was dropped and the Fountain and Scotland appointments added. Waukoee was made a part of the Granger work, thus leaving Preston, Fountain and Scotland in one charge. During this pastorate the parsonage was enlarged.

Up to this point no records had been made. In 1877 B. Blain became pastor, and with the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kingsbury and Daniel Dayton, compiled an early history of the church and established a system of records.

Waukoee, while a part of the Granger work, was served by N. B. Randall, and the Messrs. Sheets and Terwilligar. In 1878 Waukoee was dropped from the Granger work.

William Bowdish served in 1879, J. J. Christ in 1880, 1881 and 1882, and G. H. Way in 1883. Preston, Carimona and the stone schoolhouse six miles south of Preston constituted the appointments. Alfred Cressey, who came in 1884, added Waukoee to the list. E. A. Powell took charge in 1887, but does not appear to have preached at Waukoee. In 1888 came J. W. Ravell. Fred A. Hawke, to whom the church owes much for the preservation of its records, came in October, 1893. During his pastorate the present Preston church was built in 1894. The Waukoee church was formally organized Jan. 17, 1895, and a church edifice was soon thereafter constructed at that place. In 1897 came Carl A. Anderson, and the Carimona church was erected under his charge. Charles D. Lewis supplied a short time in 1899 and then came C. W. Morse. T. A. Jones was here from 1901 to 1904. Then came A. C. Petrie followed by Lincoln Hughes.

**Methodist Episcopal Church of Mabel.**—The beginning of this church was at the old red schoolhouse of Belville. The first services were held in the sixties or seventies. J. Lamberson was the first regular preacher and then the sermons were weeks apart. Leonard Bacon, Julia Bacon and a few others first started a Sunday school. In 1879 the village of Mabel was platted and church organization met in the red schoolhouse

for a year or so after. Then it was moved to the new village and services were held in the depot, over the bank, in the village schoolhouse.

The present church edifice was built in 1882 under the pastorate of Thomas H. Kinsman, and dedicated Sept. 10, 1882, by Rev. J. F. Chaffee. Some of the officers and members were Leonard Bacon and wife, C. W. Bacon and wife, Julia Bacon Justus Seelye and wife, J. G. Miner and wife, and Mrs. Wm. Loomis. The pastors lived first at Lenora, then at Canton until in 1902, when the pastor, being single, boarded three years in Mabel. The next one parsonages were rented for a year, while the present one was being built. It was ready the latter part of 1906, and cost \$2,200.

The pastors as near as can be told have been as follows: J. Lamberson, 1866; I. H. Richardson, 1868; J. W. Stebbins, 1870; W. T. Boughton, 1872; E. A. Terwilligar, 1874; W. A. Miles, 1876; Wm. M. Bowdish, 1878; E. S. Bunce, 1879; J. S. Garvin, 1880; T. H. Kinsman, 1881; W. L. Langwell, 1883; J. J. Elftman, 1884; C. H. Morton, 1886; W. T. Miller, 1888; Nathan Wood, 1892; H. O. Harbaugh, 1896; A. M. Harkness and A. Yngst, 1899; Frank Seeds, 1900; I. L. Seager, 1902; R. B. Tibbets, 1905; John Lowe, 1907; G. O. Hunter, 1908; W. W. Smith, 1910.

There are about eighty members in the church. Among them J. H. Miner, A. A. Miner, R. J. Stroud, Mrs. Hellickson, Mrs. Haines, Willis Bacon, Geo. White, John Manuel and Geo. Thomes.—By Mrs. W. C. Bacon.

**Prosper Methodist Episcopal Church.**—In 1892 a Methodist Episcopal church thirty by sixty feet was erected on the east side of section 35 in Canton township and in the hamlet of Prosper on a lot donated to the society by David Donald. This edifice was built at a cost of about \$1,200, which was obtained by subscription and from the Methodist Episcopal church extension fund. Church sessions are now held in this church by the Methodist Episcopal and Norwegian Lutheran Societies.

**Lenora Methodist Episcopal Church.**—The first preaching in the locality where Lenora is now situated was by Benjamin Christ, a Methodist missionary who traveled on foot in 1854 between Brownsville and Chatfield, Minnesota. When making these trips he held meetings in some settler's cabin on Richland Prairie. In 1855 Rev. John L. Dyer appeared and staked off a claim which was the southwest quarter of section 2, township 101, range 9, and in the fall commenced to build a log cabin near the southeast corner of his domain. In April, 1856, he platted the town of Lenora, and the following winter began to boom the new village by circulating a subscription to obtain money to build a church, which was to be a stone structure of large dimensions, two stories high, the upper story to be used for school purposes and the lower story for church service. The material for the walls was furnished gratuitously by the settlers in the surrounding country, and the walls were up ready for the roof in the late fall of 1857. This was the year of the panic, money was scarce, and nothing had been paid on the subscription. The fall rains caused the walls of the church to settle and crack, tumble down, and two members of the church, who were emigrants from the Buckeye State, paid the expense that had been incurred.

In 1865 Rev. Mr. Maples was assigned to this charge. He being an industrious man soon commenced the erection of another stone church of less dimension, which was built within the walls of the building that had fallen down. A mason was employed and Mr. Maples and James M. Graham mixed the mortar and conveyed the material to the skilled workman that laid up the wall. This stone church was completed and dedicated in 1866, Elder Daniel Cobb presiding. Up to this time church meetings were held in the first house built in Fillmore county for school purposes, which was located near the southeast corner of the Lenora town plat. The stone church built in Lenora in 1865 is still used for church sessions.

**Canton Methodist Episcopal Church.**—The first church service in this town was held in the billiard hall of S. A. Capron in the fall of 1881, by Rev. T. H. Kinsman, of the Lenora charge. In 1883 a frame church with a spire was erected by C. H. Morgan, the contractor, at a cost of about \$1,700. The Canton church society absorbed the Ellista charge, thus forming a good and substantial church society.

**Methodist Episcopal Church of Lanesboro.**—The first service held by the Methodist Episcopal church society of Lanesboro was in the chapel, so called, a building erected by the society on East Third street. This was in 1869. Rev. De Voe was the first pastor and the first families who attended the church at this time were those of Beardsley, Greer, Cook and Nash.

About 1875 the present commodious brick church was erected and dedicated. The builders of this church were Aaron G. Nash, James Greer, R. R. Greer, J. H. Gravis—as the heavy subscribers to the fund—and H. J. Cook also; these with general assistance from the public. The church was not fully paid for until 1888, when the chapel was sold, the funds applied upon the debt, and the church was cleared from indebtedness. About 1892 the present commodious parsonage was erected and paid for, largely through the efforts of A. G. Chapman and wife. The church property is entirely free from debt. The present church building and the parsonage are beautifully located in Brooklyn on Main street. The society and the Sunday school have always been of limited membership, but composed of many of our energetic, leading people. This society has done much for temperance and to mould this community and make this village one of the moral, pleasant places in this state. Many of the early members have passed away. The present pastor is Rev. William Wooley.—Contributed.

**Ellista Methodist Episcopal Church.**—Service was first held in this town in a stone schoolhouse that was erected in the west part of Ellista in 1856, and was continued in this schoolhouse until 1869, when it was destroyed by fire. Later the walls were purchased by the members of the church; repaired and used for religious meetings up to the time the citizens deserted the town. The Methodist church at Canton village absorbed the congregation in 1883.

**Chatfield Methodist Episcopal Church.**—On May 28, 1859, the Methodist church at Chatfield was dedicated to the worship of God. A large number of people were present, and all the ministers from the neighborhood.

A collection was taken up which cleared the society from debt, except to the amount of about \$100. This was among the very first churches in Fillmore county. Among the early preachers were: Revs. John D. Rich, E. Tucker, John W. Studdill, Nahum Talanter, N. Lathrop, Andrew J. Nelson, B. Blain, J. R. Creighton, O. C. Gregg, A. M. Stevens, W. Carver, W. C. Shaw, J. L. Fasig, J. W. Yokom, H. C. Jennings, M. O. McNiff, G. F. Wells, C. H. Rogers and Rev. Mr. Horn.

**Granger Methodist Episcopal Church.**—A Methodist society was organized in 1859. Rev. Mr. Dyer was the earliest preacher after the society was formed. In 1867, a church was built in Granger. It was quite a good frame building, costing about \$1,500, and was afterwards converted into a hall, but was burned in 1878. In 1877, this society purchased the Congregationalist church, which is in Iowa. Among the early pastors may be named, Rev. A. R. Fuller, Rev. Nathan B. Randall, Rev. George A. Sheets, Rev. E. A. Terwilliger, Rev. A. D. Stanton, Rev. A. P. Bunce, Rev. J. S. Garvin and Rev. Joseph Hanna.

**Methodist Episcopal Congregation of Pleasant Hill.**—As early as 1854, the Rev. Benjamin Crist came to Spring Valley from La Crosse where he made his headquarters, wading the brooks and swimming the rivers, working in the cause with true apostolic devotion, getting around here once in four weeks. On the completion of the schoolhouse for district No. 114, meetings were held in it by Elijah Fate, and a class was formed the same season. Rev. Moses Maples was the first regular supply after this, and there was a great revival that affected the whole neighborhood. In 1860, a Sunday school was started.

**The Newburg Norwegian Methodist Episcopal Congregation.**—The organization of this society was on May 20, 1860, under the supervision of Rev. H. H. Haaland, in whose charge a church was built the same year. He was succeeded by Rev. N. Christopher-son. Other early pastors were: Rev. Halverson Knudson, Rev. Halverson A. Johnson, Rev. Mr. Lindquist, Rev. A. Olson, Rev. O. L. Hanson, Rev. Mr. Knudson and Rev. A. Olson. Religious services by adherents to this faith were early held in Hans Valder's barn, and in his house.

**Preble South Fork Norwegian Methodist Episcopal Society.**—This church was organized in 1874 by Rev. A. Olsen, of Newburg, and under his supervision a neat little frame church was constructed, 24x34 feet, near the residence of Ole Richardson, the following year. Revs. O. Hanson and A. Knudson were early pastors.

**Pilot Mound Methodist Episcopal Society.**—An early religious society organized in Pilot Mound was the Methodist on Sunday, May 23, 1858, by Rev. Ezra Tucker, the preacher in charge of the Chatfield circuit of the Methodist Episcopal church, with nine members. W. Wendell was appointed class leader. The first prayer meeting was held on Sunday, June 13, 1853. The first class meeting was held on July 4, 1858. The first Sunday school was started by Rev. Mr. Tucker on July 25 the same year, with Mr. Wendell as superintendent.

**Spring Valley Wesleyan Methodist Society.**—In the year 1879, Rev. Robert Hardy held services in Spring Valley and organized a society in July, in Willard Allen's hall.



Fountain Protestant Methodist Society.—Rev. George J. Stephenson, in 1855, preached in the house of Hosmer H. Winslow, in section five, Fountain, and afterwards in Theodore Trumbull's residence, in the same section. In 1856, Rev. Stephen Jones, from Chatfield, preached at Mr. Trumbull's and the next summer organized a society, and meetings were held in several places in the neighborhood, and afterwards in the schoolhouse No. 75. He continued preaching here until 1877, except one year when Rev. Caleb Austin officiated. Elder Stephen Jones and Rev. Alonzo Hitchcock preached in the schoolhouse in district No. 80, soon after it was built. Elder Jones was a man of whom more than a passing notice should be given. He was an apostolic kind of a preacher, who was always ready to minister to any flock, when there was a prospect of doing good, and this he did without hope of fee or reward. He was the father of the late John R. Jones, of Chatfield, and was highly respected over a wide range of territory.

#### PRESBYTERIAN.

There are nine Presbyterian churches in Fillmore county. The Presbyterian church at Preston was until recently in charge of Rev. J. E. Darling. The Canton, Richland Prairie and Lanesboro Presbyterian churches are in charge of Rev. R. L. Jones. The Chatfield, Cummingsville and Washington Presbyterian churches are in charge of Rev. W. R. Reynolds, D. D. The Jordan Presbyterian church has no pastor. The Rushford Presbyterian church is in charge of Rev. George Stanley.

Presbyterian Church of Chatfield.—The beginning of this church is recorded in the books as follows: "Chatfield, June 21, 1857. Pursuant to notices given on two successive Sabbaths, the following persons remained after service in the Baptist chapel for the purpose of organizing a Congregational or Presbyterian church as the majority shall decide; viz.: Joel S. Sawyer, Israel McElderry and Catherine, his wife; Chauncey G. B. Jones, Joel Ketcham, J. C. Easton, Martha Blodgett and Revs. E. D. Holt and G. K. Clark and several others. Rev. G. K. Clark was chosen moderator and E. D. Holt, secretary. After some consideration it was resolved. That we proceed to organize a Presbyterian church. The persons mentioned above were then constituted a church with prayer by the moderator. The letters not present to be presented at future meetings. The articles of faith and covenant adopted and published by the Synod of Peoria some years since were presented and adopted. Adjourned to meet two weeks from today.—E. D. Holt, secretary."

The record does not state how the vote stood deciding to make the church Presbyterian, but it is reported that the vote was a tie and was decided by the casting vote of the moderator. On July 21 a number of letters were presented and the organization completed by the election and ordination of Israel McElderry, Joel Ketcham and C. G. B. Jones as elders. The new church became connected with what was known as the New School Presbyterian body which at that time stood for a strong anti-slavery sentiment and a more liberal theology than the Old School church. The New School body was closely affiliated

with the Congregational church in Home and Foreign Mission work, contributing to the American Board and to the American Home Missionary Society. The Chatfield church received aid from the latter society for a number of years. Of those who took part in the original meeting on June 21 and the adjourned meeting of July 21, only Mrs. Mary Carlisle Fraser, of St. Charles, and Mrs. Julia Sawyer, of Brooklyn, N. Y., survive. Mrs. C. R. Holt, now of Sioux City, was probably present but was not received as a member until January, 1858. Mrs. Margaret McCulloch was received at the earliest date of any member now living in Chatfield, viz., April 10, 1858. Rev. Gardner K. Clark, father of Henry M. Clark, of this city, preached to the new church in connection with his church at Saratoga until May, 1859, when Rev. E. D. Holt became acting pastor. Rev. Mr. Clark was a man whose amiable temper and lovable disposition endeared him to all who knew him. He rendered efficient service in laying the foundations of the new church enterprise. Services were held in the stone building now owned by Mr. Frank Bandle.

A movement for church edifice was begun in 1859, but the building was not erected until 1860 and was occupied in the autumn of that year. It was located on the corner of the present church grounds, cost about \$2,000 and was occupied until January, 1868, or over thirty-seven years. Rev. E. D. Holt, who was active in the organization and work of the church from its beginning, continued acting pastor until his death, June 11, 1865, after an illness of five weeks. Mr. Holt had done much hard work the previous winter when revival meetings were held for several weeks. His death was felt to be a great loss to the church. The fruits of these revival services were gathered into the church during the summer and autumn of 1865, fifteen persons being received on profession, the church being still without a pastor. The membership in 1860 was 45; in 1862, 52; in 1866, 76. Mr. Holt's pastorate covered the entire period of the Civil War, when the attention of the people was constantly fixed upon the varying fortunes of our side in the conflict, and so large a share of those able to go were enlisted in the army, making a very difficult period to conduct church work.

In October, 1865, the New School Synod of Minnesota met with this church. Among those present were Rev. Dr. H. M. Kendall, of New York, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, and Rev. Dr. F. A. Noble, of St. Paul. The church remained without a resident pastor until October 1, 1866, when Rev. Rufus King, of Jamestown, N. Y., became acting pastor, remaining until June 1, 1867. In the summer of 1867 the church building was repaired and improved at the cost of about \$800.

In July, 1867, Rev. J. L. Howell, of Stillwater, was invited to become pastor, accepted, and remained with the church until June, 1873. In the summer of 1872 Mr. Howell received a vacation of several months, employing Rev. W. S. Holt, who was present with us in April, to supply the pulpit in his absence. Mr. Howell was greatly afflicted during his residence in Chatfield by the sudden death of his daughter as the result of an accident, and some years later

by the death of Mrs. Howell. In 1869 the church had 71 members and 74 in 1870. Rev. Willis Lord, D. D., who had for many years made his summer home on a farm near Chatfield, acted as pastor for a year ending July, 1874. On October 26, 1874, Rev. Samuel Howell Murphy was invited to act as pastor. The invitation was accepted and Mr. Murphy remained until July, 1877. In January and February, 1875, revival meetings, conducted by the pastor, were continued for six weeks or more. As the direct result of these services, twenty-eight persons were received on profession in March, 1875.

The church, up to this time, had received aid from the Home Mission Committee. This was discontinued in 1875, and the church, for the first time in its history, became self-supporting. May 25, 1875, J. S. Sawyer, who had been actively connected with the church at Chatfield from its organization and had been superintendent of its Sabbath school for many years, died at his home in Chatfield.

In July, 1877, Rev. Murphy responded to an urgent call from the Gaboon Mission in West Africa and returned to that field of labor soon after. A call extended to Rev. E. P. Lewis, now of Macalester, on Sept. 10, 1877, was declined and Rev. G. W. Riggle supplied the pulpit for about two months ending in November, 1877. In February, 1878, Rev. F. P. Dalrymple accepted an invitation for one year and Mr. Dalrymple continued in charge until June, 1884. The number of members in 1879 was 102; in 1881, 109; in 1882, 90, and in 1884, 95.

Rev. Samuel Howell Murphy, who had acted as pastor from 1874 to 1877, was formally called as pastor June 23, 1884, and having accepted commenced his labors July 27, 1884. Mr. Murphy was the first pastor of this church to be formally called and installed in that office. The present manse was built in 1885, costing, with the lots, about \$2,000. Rev. Mr. Murphy having gathered a considerable congregation at Cummingsville in 1889 undertook the work of gathering funds for a chapel at that place, which was erected in the autumn of that year at a cost of about \$700. The work was continued with the Cummingsville church as a part or mission of the Chatfield church until 1902, when they became a separate Presbyterian church and the church property at Cummingsville was conveyed to it by this church. Rev. Mr. Murphy having been pastor continuously for nine years and including his previous term of service for twelve years, resigned his pastorate in the early summer of 1893. On August 14, 1893, Rev. D. H. Rohrabough was engaged as stated supply and continued in charge for two years.

On Sept. 16, 1895, Rev. George S. Hays was called as pastor and having accepted continued his labors until November, 1900. This pastorate was made especially memorable by the consummation of that which had been looked forward to for many years but had for one cause and another been postponed; viz., the erection of a new house of worship. At the annual meeting, May 11, 1896, a committee of five was appointed to see what could be raised for a new church, but owing to the unsettled financial conditions prevailing that year, no active steps were taken. In 1897, however, the committee having added two members, proceeded to cir-

culate a subscription and at the annual meeting in May was instructed to build a church in that year. The Holt property having been purchased, contracts were made and the building of the new church proceeded with. Some delays occurred and the new church was not dedicated until January 19, 1898, the sermon being preached by Rev. Dr. A. B. Meldrum, of St. Paul. The church, including furnishings and lot, cost nearly \$7,000. This was all paid or provided for, including the amount pledged at the dedication, except \$200 or \$300, which was afterward paid.

On December 1, 1900, Rev. Mr. Hays was succeeded by Rev. Allan Bell, D. D., of Winona, who continued to act as pastor until May, 1904. Dr. Bell's labors are so recent a date and he is so well remembered by all, that it is not necessary to give any details. He was followed in September, 1904, by the present pastor, Rev. W. R. Reynolds, D. D., who came to us from Cincinnati, Ohio.—By G. H. Haven.

**Presbyterian Church of Rushford.**—On the first of May, 1855, there came to Rushford William W. Snell, who preached the first sermon on May 6, 1855, in a log cabin owned by S. S. Stebbins. Services were kept up most of the time at that cabin until Mr. Snell completed a house of his own. This was used for a church on Sundays until the year 1860. Then the Congregational church of Rushford was organized, May 19, consisting of William W. Snell and Jane E. Snell, his wife, who received letters from the Congregational church of Lenora, Minn.; Mrs. Lucinda Newcomb, received by letter from the Reformed Protestant Dutch church of Prattsville, N. J.; Mrs. Emiline Ada Hitchcock, received by letter from the Third Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, N. Y., and William D. Stark, received by profession.

The chapel was first built on the corner of section 11, where the road turns to go to Winona, some sixty rods north of the bridge. The first load of lumber was brought on the ground February 4, 1860. The work was undertaken by William W. Snell without asking any assistance, but the privilege to help was offered to all. Help was most cheerfully rendered by the community and \$100 was sent to aid the work by E. C. Emerson and friends in Boston, Mass. The ladies of the Home Circle raised \$20 towards getting a bell, and enough more was contributed by friends in the East to Mr. Snell while on a visit there to purchase one weighing 712 pounds. The bell was shipped to La Crosse and brought from there by Ruben Whittemore on January 1, 1862, and was rung on that day while suspended by ropes. In the fall of 1867 the church was moved down into town on lots 35 and 36 Gove street, and in the spring of 1868 was enlarged and about one hundred sittings added. On October 17, 1887, William W. Snell, on account of Mrs. Snell's health, asked to be relieved from the obligation to minister to this church and this request was granted. They moved to California, where Mrs. Snell died about a month after and Mr. Snell ten years later.

The congregation then secured O. P. Champlin from Iowa to preach for them. He commenced the first of January, 1888, and continued as pastor until October 24, 1889. On January 12, 1890, the church extended a call to



Rev. Richard A. Clark, of Lanesboro, to be pastor. He was a Presbyterian minister. In 1893 the Rev. Robert Tweed, of Fremont, Minn., was called to be pastor and he reorganized the church into a Presbyterian body and the trustees of the Congregational church deeded all the church property to the trustees of the Presbyterian church. Robert Tweed served as pastor for one and one-half years. In the year 1894 Rev. Harry Kreemers, of Princeton Seminary, came on the field and was pastor for one year. On or about May 16, 1895, J. M. Swander, from McCormick Seminary, Chicago, came on the field and was pastor for about a year and a half. On November 15, 1896, Rev. Harry Kreemers came back and was installed as pastor. The subject of building a new church was discussed and it was agreed to build one, as it was much needed. The chair appointed John McLeod, William Robertson, J. H. Moore, James A. McKay, E. G. Kingsford, J. G. Roberston and H. Kreemers to constitute the church building committee. This committee bought a lot in the center of town, raised the money, let the contract to Knutson Bros., of Rushford, and work was commenced as soon as the frost was out of the ground. On October 9, 1897, it was finished and was dedicated free of debt and with about \$50 in the treasury. The cost was about \$3,000. On October 10, 1898, the old church and lot were sold and steps taken to build a "manse." Work was commenced in the spring of 1899 and finished in September. It cost about \$1,800. On November 24, 1901, Rev. H. Kreemers tendered his resignation as pastor and there was no pastor until the next spring when Rev. F. A. Stead preached about four months. A call was then extended to the Rev. Jesse Marhoff, of Michigan, who served about a year and a half. On May 15, 1904, a call was given to Rev. George Stanley, of Pratt, Minn., which was accepted. He was installed and served as pastor for eight years. May 14, 1912, a congregational meeting was called for the purpose of giving a call to Rev. John C. Bantley, Kasson, Minn. He commenced work on June 1, 1912. The membership now is about eighty, and the church is out of debt with a good prospect for the future. The elders of the church are: A. McDermid, J. C. St. John, D. H. Otis, B. H. Moore and John McLeod. The trustees are: William Robertson, James G. Robertson, David H. Otis, Henry D. McKay and B. H. Moore. The Sunday school superintendent is Alice G. Moore. The president of the Missionary Society is Mrs. Mary Otis.

The first baptism took place on August 11, 1861, at the church when Arthur Thorp Snell was baptized. The first member after the organization was Mrs. Margaret Reppy, admitted by letter on November 18, 1860. The second was on January 12, 1861, Angus Chisholm and wife, Ann, and John E. Knapp and wife, E. Knapp. The first death occurred on September 16, 1866, when Angus Chisholm died. He was the first that was buried in Oak Grove cemetery, which was started in 1869 on the southeast corner of northeast quarter of section 14. There is no record of births or marriages in the church. The first Sunday school was started in the spring of 1857 with five scholars, consisting of Mary Beel Cameron, George Hitchcock, Gamalia Newcomb, Tom-

mie Snell and John McLeod. The school has been kept up most of the time ever since. The Ladies' Aid and the Women's Missionary Society are doing a good work for the church. They meet once a month.—By John McLeod.

**Richland Prairie Presbyterian Church**, commonly known as the Scotland Church.—At the house of John Gilfillan, on the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 18, 102, 9, now the property of H. G. and J. Danielson, on the evening of February 8, 1860, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, the first Presbyterian minister to visit this region, preached a sermon to about forty persons. Some of those present were: Mr. and Mrs. John Gilfillan and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Elder, James Elder, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Milne, Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Lang, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCallum, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Salisbury. On March 14 following he again preached in the same place to about fifty persons. On June 29, 1860, Rev. Hugh L. Craven commenced to preach to these people every third Sabbath during the summer. On August 5, of the same year, Rev. Sheldon Jackson administered the "Lord's Supper" to the people gathered in the grove near the Henderson schoolhouse—in district No. 46, known as the Scotland school, which is still standing. Eighteen persons communed and Ann Eliza Milne and Janet Patterson were baptized there. In September, 1860, Rev. James Frothingham commenced to preach to this community on alternate Sabbaths.

On Monday, November 13, 1860, was organized "The Richland Prairie Presbyterian church of Preston township, Fillmore county, Minn.," by a committee of the Presbytery of Chippewa, consisting of Rev. Sheldon Jackson and Rev. James Frothingham. The meeting was held in the Henderson schoolhouse. A sermon was preached by Rev. Sheldon Jackson from the texts Matthew xvi, 24 and 25, and Luke xiv, 26 and 27. At the conclusion of the sermon a full explanation of the object of the meeting was made and those persons wishing to organize themselves into a distinct church of Jesus Christ in connection with the Presbyterian body were requested to present themselves. The following persons responded: James Elder, William Elder and wife, Henry Milne and wife, Robert McCallum and wife, Mary Salisbury, Mrs. Mathew Lang and Duncan Murray. All of these had been members of the Presbyterian church of Scotland except Mrs. Salisbury, who was a member of the Episcopal church of Nova Scotia, and Duncan Murray, who was accepted on "profession of faith." At this meeting William Elder and Duncan Murray were elected elders by a unanimous vote and on November 25, 1860, Duncan Murray was ordained an elder by the laying on of hands. William Elder was not ordained, he declining to serve. On March 30, 1861, Daniel Salisbury was admitted to church privileges on profession of faith. He was the husband of Mary Salisbury, one of the charter members. Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury later removed to Big Stone county, Minn., where they died, he at the ripe old age of 103 and she at 102, having been married over eighty years, and dying nearly at the same time.

Rev. Adam Craig preached on alternate Sabbaths from June 1, 1861, to Dec. 20, 1862. Jas. Elder was elected

an elder on July 7, 1861, and—excepting for a short absence in the West—served until the time of his death which occurred on January 26, 1875. Rev. James Frothingham resumed preaching to this congregation on January 1, 1863, and served them until October of same year when Rev. A. S. Kemper took up the work which he continued until April 3, 1867, when he resigned. On March 8, 1867, at a meeting held for that purpose Wm. Elder, John Hutton and Daniel Salisbury were elected to the office of ruling elders.

On May 26, 1867, Rev. A. J. Stead became stated supply of this church and conducted a parochial school during the same summer. Sabbath school had been organized and held during the summer of 1864 and has been maintained with some intermissions ever since. In the fall of 1867 the congregation decided to build a church and during the winter of 1867 hauled most of the lumber from Rushford and on March 20, 1868, a contract was signed by Henry Milne, James Elder and Robert Hutton, trustees of the church, and George Isenhour, contractor, for the erection of the church which was built during that summer and dedicated in the fall. The church is still in good repair and services are held in it every Sabbath. It is known as the "Scotland church." The church was built by individual subscription whose names are as follows:

A. J. Stead, Wm. Elder, Jas. Elder, H. Milne, Wm. Hutton, P. McKay, R. McCollum, J. Cathcart, D. Stuart, R. Hutton, R. Henderson, N. Grant, F. Newell, J. W. Miller, P. Hutton, Wm. Duxbury, J. Mills, P. Hart, Conkey Bros., A. H. Buttler, A. Weiser, J. P. Tibbits, — Wilkins, A. Bergen, C. L. Colman, W. Patterson, T. G. Moore, A. Daniels, J. Patterson, T. Vickerman, P. Milne, W. Henderson, J. Vickerman, John Ward, Joe Finney, N. D. Wagner, D. Hutton, A. S. Kemper, S. S. Dunn.

Rev. A. J. Stead continued to supply the church until June 1, 1871. On July 23, 1871, Rev. H. L. Craven commenced to supply the church with services every two weeks and continued until the latter part of the year 1873. On April, 1874, Rev. J. H. Carpenter became the stated supply of the church and continued until Aug. 12, 1877. The church was without supply until January 26, 1878, when Rev. Geo. Williams served until March 4, 1879, when he resigned. From this time till Oct. 24, 1893, there was no stated supply for the church. On that date Rev. J. R. Jones commenced his labors with the church and continued until May, 1894. In the first of the year 1895 Rev. P. August Schwarz came and served the charge for about two and one half years. In the spring of 1898, Rev. A. J. Stead again became stated supply of the church and continued till the time of his death which occurred at his home in Canton, Minn., on August 3, 1907. On May 17, 1908, Rev. O. B. Peters became stated supply and served until March, 1910. On October 18, 1908, John Turner and John McCollum were elected ruling elders. John Turner died on April 3, 1909.

The church session at the present time is composed of Rev. R. L. Jones, pastor; John McCollum, elder. The church officers are John Grant, Geo. H. Milne and Chas. Dunn, directors.—By John McCollum.

The First Presbyterian Church of Canton was organized June 29, 1894. Rev. R. B. Abbott of Albert Lea,

Elder M. G. Fellows of Lanesbro, and Elder Joseph Dawson of Henrytown, represented the Winona Presbytery. Rev. Abbott had charge of the meeting and received twelve as charter members: Daniel Shutt and wife, Flora Shutt, C. W. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. LaFayette Johnson, Fannie Johnson, Mrs. Alma Harsb, Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Beach, C. W. Graham and Daniel Shutt were elected elders of the church and Rev. John Allison was continued as stated supply. He had gathered the congregation together at the beginning. For a time the congregation gathered in the schoolhouse. The church was built under the pastorate of Rev. John Allison and dedicated in 1885.

Pastors and stated supplies have been as follows: Rev. John Allison, stated supply June 1884 to 1887; Rev. R. A. Clark, stated supply 1888 to March 1890; Henry Moore, stated supply summer of 1890; — Gills, stated supply summer of 1891; Alfred Foss, stated supply summer 1892; Rev. J. R. Jones, stated supply fall 1892 to May 1893; Rev. P. A. Schwarz, pastor, May 1893 to October 1897; Rev. A. J. Stead, stated supply May 1898 to May 1901; J. E. Crystal, student supply summer 1901; Rev. B. A. Fahl, stated supply November 24, 1901 to 1903; Rev. Brooks Hitchins, stated supply for a time; Rev. O. B. Peters, pastor, June 1908 to March 1910; Rev. R. L. Jones, stated supply November 20, 1911, to the present time.

The Sunday school is in a prosperous condition under the leadership of J. A. Fife. The Willing Workers society, a women's society, is wide awake and helps in the church work. Mrs. Robert Heales is president.

In 1912 the church made an effort and purchased a property in the south part of town for a "manse." Geo. Young and Thomas Rice are the present elders. The number of members at present is twenty-three.—By Rev. R. L. Jones.

Washington Presbyterian Church.—In 1870 this association was organized, and a lot purchased from M. S. Harwood for \$125. A church edifice was started in 1871 and completed in 1875. Rev. George Ainsley held the first service in this church. April 22, 1877, Rev. H. Wilson became pastor. Various other pastors served at various times, until 1907, when the Rev. W. R. Reynolds was placed in charge. The first elders were William Foster and John Lilley. Other elders have been Joseph Brown, David Irving, R. Parkhill and A. Liebold. S. Anderson, who furnishes this information, has been elder since 1893.

Henrytown Presbyterian Church was organized February 14, 1881, the officiating minister being Rev. Mr. Dalrymple, assisted by Revs. Drew and Carpenter. Prior to the organization of the church, services had been regularly held in the schoolhouse by M. H. Carpenter. Upon organization of the society the following officers were appointed: Elders, Joseph Dawson and Wm. Patterson; Treasurer, M. H. Onstine; Secretary, J. Dawson. The last services were held about 1890 by Rev. John Allison.

Canfield Bethel Presbyterian Church.—Meetings were first held in the schoolhouse on section twenty-nine, York. Rev. J. W. F. Roth, Jr., was one of the preachers. In the fall of 1879, an organization took place with ten members, and Mr. Roth became the pastor. York Holland Presbyterian Church.—this denomination and an edifice on

section seven, and near it a parsonage, both of which were erected in 1878, at a cost of \$2,200. The persons who were interested in this form of belief held a meeting on November 21, 1876, and a church was organized by Rev. R. B. Abbott from Albert Lea, assisted by Elder H. Frederick, of Austin. Seventeen members were admitted by letter at that time. The first ordained minister was Rev. J. W. F. Roth, Sr., who was installed in July, 1877. On May 7, 1879, Rev. J. W. F. Roth, Jr., was installed as pastor. Previous to the construction of the church the meetings were held in the various houses where it would be most convenient. The society is no longer in existence.

**Canton Reformed Presbyterian Church.**—The first minister was the Rev. M. Stevenson, a missionary, from Janesville, Wisconsin, about 1865. He held service in the schoolhouses and in the Methodist church, and remained about two years when Rev. J. Buck was appointed by the Presbytery. He was here for two years and during that time the church, 40x60 feet, was constructed.

**The Elliots Reformed Presbyterian Church.**—In 1865 Rev. M. Stevenson, a missionary from Janesville, Wisconsin, commenced holding service in schoolhouses in the neighborhood and remained in the place about two years. He was succeeded by Rev. J. Buck who was appointed to Elliott by the Presbytery. He remained about two years, and during that time a frame church, forty by sixty feet, was erected. The congregation was small and the society found it difficult to support a minister and sold the church and it was removed.

#### HOLLAND CHURCH AND SETTLEMENT.

As a rule the Hollanders are not easily assimilated in other church denominations. Usually they colonize, and soon make efforts to form church organizations. These organizations usually being of the Reformed or of the Presbyterian faith, two bodies which are sister churches in doctrine.

In 1856 the modern methods of spreading news were unknown, but the message passed from mouth to mouth, from settlement to settlement and from farm to farm, that fertile lands less than a hundred miles west of the Mississippi were opened for settlement and could be obtained from the government or from claimants, at most reasonable terms and rates.

Among the thousands who heard this news were: D. Allink and wife, Allink's brother-in-law, William Boland, and wife; and a young man, A. J. Nagel. They determined to brave the dangers of western life, and establish for themselves new homes in the west. Accordingly, May 1, they started in three covered wagons, with four yoke of oxen, bringing with them their few earthly possessions.

They started with no special object in view, otherwise than to find a good piece of government land. At McGregor, Iowa, they were directed to Decorah and there they heard of the Neighen brothers who had located at Forestville, Minn., and who were reputed as being able and trustworthy men who would be able to locate the party, acting in the capacity of guides, agents and surveyors. So the party headed for Forestville, arriving there

about June first, having traveled something like 250 miles in twenty days.

They found the Neighens as reported. The next day, leaving their families under the protection of the Forestville shade trees, they, under the guidance of Wm. Neighen, started out to find land. Going due south about six miles they reached the corner where York, Bristol, Carlmona and Forestville joined. Mr. Neighen pointed at the first section in York and said, "There is a quarter section for sale." "Well," said Boland, "that is good enough for me." Then Mr. Neighen said "The next quarter section is also for sale." "Well," said Allink, "that looks good enough for me." This seems rather a hasty transaction but time has proven that their guide and looks did not deceive them for the land is as good as any in the state.

The next day they brought out their families. Now they were home! The covered wagons were put on the line between the claims as sleeping apartments and round about the wagons was considered home. Here was the nucleus of the Holland settlement, here the starting point of a thriving church organization, but they did not know it then. Neither did they know though they and their neighbors soon found out the hardships and privations that all new settlements must undergo, especially in those early days.

The young man, A. J. Nagel, mentioned heretofore was still a minor and not entitled to a government claim but land being so plentiful all around, he filed on a quarter section in Bristol township, hoping to become of age before some one else claimed it. A few acres were broken and a hole dug which was to serve as a cellar for the intended housekeeper. But on a certain day a few horsemen came riding along who proved to be the Ogg people, some of whom still reside in that locality. They looked the ground over very carefully, drove from one corner to the other, held conversations among themselves and finally approached him and questioned him about his affairs, asking him if he intended to make that his home. He answered in the affirmative. "Where is your wife?" they asked. He replied "I think she is in Wisconsin." But he did not tell them that in this case it had not gone beyond the stages of good hope. "Well, will you sell your claim?" they asked. "Yes sir," he said. "What is your price?" they asked. He answered, "One hundred and fifty dollars in cash." "All right," they said, "here is your money." And A. J. was the happiest man in the country for that was a big sum in those days, especially for a young man who had hardly owned a dollar before.

Then hearing good reports, other families began to move in. B. Nagel and two sons: D. J. Ruiskink; John and Henry Boland; M. Ruiskink; three families by the name of Mensink; D. Wubbels, and Henry Schuivil, nearly all from near Alton and Waupun, Wis. As all had only a few years previous emigrated direct from Holland, most of them were poor, some even being in debt for their passage across the ocean, and as may be expected, the English language was not spoken fluently. That was one reason why they could not intermingle with other denominations in their religious services.

But the majority had been brought up under the strict church discipline of the Reformed church and they soon

began to long for more regular devotional services. One of their number, Manes Mensink, being more scholarly and educated than the others, was chosen as leader. From that time they gathered more regularly, first at the homes, and later in the log school-house in the "bottom," still later in the Liberty schoolhouse.

Up to the year 1867 the colony had increased to some thirty or thirty-five families and the majority had remained faithful under the leadership of Mr. Mensink. Through his efforts a petition was sent to the classes (Presbytery) of Wisconsin, asking to be organized into a church. The same summer Rev. Pleters from Alton was sent out with instructions to organize if he found conditions favorable.

Upon his arrival twenty-four heads of families presented themselves for organization: H. J. Mensink, Manes Mensink, John Mensink, R. Roelofs, E. J. H. J. and G. R. Roelofs, Henry and John Boland, E. Gerritsen, H. and D. Wubbels, D. J. Ruiskink, J. Blom, Wm. Tammel, J. Koster, H. Wesselsink, G. Demots, A. Van Beek, G. Kemmers, H. Wissink, Lyman Wensink, and John Wickerling. The organization was to be called the Church of York. The elders were: Manes, Mensink and E. Gerritsen and the deacons, H. Boland and D. Wubbels.

Now they were ready for work. They were in need of a minister; in need of a parsonage and church building; in need of grounds to place those buildings, and all were poor. The first step was to buy five acres from the first settler, Wm. Boland, for church property, and burying ground. The next year they built a small parsonage. Then they made a few unsuccessful efforts at calling a minister until the following year, 1869, when they were successful in securing the services of Reverend P. Seneltak from Chicago, who proved to be just the man for those western poor pioneers. He worked hard for and with them, being not only their spiritual advisor, but in many ways assisting them by instruction and advice. He was also the means by which a Christian lady from Philadelphia by the name of Mrs. Greenleaf voluntarily offered to give the sum of \$3,550 for the building of a church house. In honor and memory of her the church name was changed from York to Greenleafton and her portrait is always to be found in the parsonage of the residing minister.

From that day on the little church felt stronger and immediately built a larger parsonage and bought ten acres of heavy timber land at \$75 per acre. Almost before they were aware of it they were deeply in debt and consequently like almost all communities the church had its ups and down, its favorable and unfavorable conditions to contend with. One thing in particular that interfered with the growth numerically was the constant springing up of new settlements that at times drew heavily on the membership. But through a kind Providence and under the leadership of able ministers the church has now at the end of forty-five years grown to be a strong self-supporting congregation of eighty-five families. None rich but some are well to do and are not behind in benevolent work in comparison with other churches of its size in numbers. The financial report of 1910 showed: Families, 85; communicants, 180; catechumens, 120; Sunday

school scholars, 200; financial aid for congregation, \$1,000; denominational, \$968; other objects, \$418; total, \$2,416.

The following ministers have served us in the order named: Peter Lepeltak, nine years; Herman Vanderploeg, four years; Peter Deyoung, three years; Harm Borgeers, nine years; Albert Osterhof, six years; Abram Klerk, three years; William Beckerling, three years, and Peter Grooters, the present pastor.

Soon after the first organization the congregation was materially strengthened by the incoming of the families of G. Mensink, G. Apenhorst, H. Lulink, E. Heusinkveld, W. Miller, Stroete Groteboer and Bargebos, all from Alton, Wis.; A. J. and W. Sikink, B. and W. Wieberdel, Hlebrink and Prinsen, from Sheboygan. Aso J. W. Stapoelkamp, who proved to be an able churchman and served as elder for many years; as well as quite a few who came direct from Holland, among others G. Elfrink, M. Hopeman, Dominik Hof-tizer and G. H. Wissing, who also has been a faithful worker and for many years served as elder.

Mr. Alink, the first settler, never identified himself with any church, but financially supported the Reformed church. William Boland, also one of the first and on whose land the church property is located, northeast quarter of section 1, York, soon after its organization became an active and useful member. That once young man, A. J. Nagel, whose good hopes were soon realized, soon became an ardent supporter and member and has now become gray, the father of a large family, who are useful members in the church and community. Among the useful and respected families in this community who did not identify themselves with our church work, but most of whose children afterwards did, are the following: Messrs. Schievil, Freeman, Vrieze, Nagel, Demkes, M. Ruiskink, Ter Rest, Berning, Meinen and last, but not least, G. Ramaker, who, with the writer, had seen three years' active service in the Civil War, and two years after, together came to Greenleafton in the summer of 1867. Ramaker buying a quarter section in York and writer 120 acres in Bristol. Ramaker moved there the following spring and after successful farming for some years sold out and started in the mercantile business at Greenleafton and was so successful that he had to enlarge his surroundings from time to time until it became too large for him, when he sold out and is now "resting on his oars" in Seattle, Wash. The writer is still holding down the old homestead. Altogether time, guided by an unseen hand of Providence, has dealt kindly with us, and we feel thankful that our lot has been cast in a community of so many noble people.

I have given only a history of the Holland people, but we find so many noble varieties amongst other nationalities and good conscientious Christians in other denominations that were it our task we could say very much to their credit. But I will close by saying that so far as my observation goes, I am firmly convinced that the communities where religion is not simply confessed but lived and worked out there you find the most prosperous community. I am glad to have lived in a community where that has been the object of the majority.—Gerrit Vander Bie.

## THE BRETHREN.

The Root River Church of the Brethren had its inception in 1855, when a number of families of German ancestry and Maryland birth, moved to Fillmore county and settled in or near Bristol township. Among these families were the Oggs, Broadwaters, Shooks and Mausts. A year later, in 1856, a church organization was perfected. Early meetings were held in such places as presented themselves as suitable gathering points—residences, schoolhouses, granaries and sheds. The first communion was held in 1858, all being fed and lodged who cared to attend. In 1872 a church was built in section 5, one and a half miles east of Greenleaf. This structure stood until 1905 when it was torn down and the present beautiful structure completed at a cost of \$3,000 under the pastorate of the Rev. J. F. Souders. In 1909 a commodious parsonage was built on the church property. The membership is about one hundred and twenty-five.

In 1860 John Ogg was ordained bishop. He preached to the congregation until his death in 1868. In 1871 his son, Joseph Ogg, was ordained bishop and occupied that exalted office until his death in 1895. Rev. J. F. Souders has had charge of the congregation since 1903 and was chosen bishop in 1908.

Two preaching services are held each Sabbath day during the summer and fall, and one each Sabbath during the cold weather. A Christian Workers' meeting is held prior to each Sunday evening service.

It is interesting to note that of those who organized this church there is one still living, Mrs. Mary Zebaugh.

## EPISCOPAL.

Emmanuel Parish of Rushford (Episcopal).—The first service was held by the Rev. John W. Shatzel, then of Chatfield, Minn., on May 12, 1867. This was the only service of the church held in Rushford until the Rev. George V. Palmer came to reside here in the fall of the same year. He commenced on the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity, October 20, and held services regularly every Sunday, with the exception of three, until the second Sunday of Epiphany, January 19, 1868. Preaching, according to his report to the bishop, "at the afternoon service." These services were held in a public hall. In May, 1868, the Rev. William R. Powell commenced holding services in Rushford twice a month, in connection with Caledonia, at which place he resided. The parish was organized on November 23, 1868, with the Rev. William R. Powell as rector.

The church was commenced in the fall of this year and opened for divine service at Christmas. The cost of this building was about \$2,000. The lot was given by George G. Stevens. The Rev. Mr. Powell resigned in the spring of 1870 and was succeeded by the Rev. C. F. Stred in the autumn of the same year; he also resided at Caledonia. Mr. Stred resigned in August, 1871. The Rev. A. Spor took charge of the parish in February, 1872, residing in Rushford and holding services regularly, morning and evening until July 1, when from that time until December 1, every third Sunday was given to Caledonia. December 1, Mr. Spor moved to Caledonia, resigning this parish. Rev. Robert Reed Goudy

took charge June 14, 1873. Rev. S. Pritchard took charge in November, 1885, and came to reside here in November, 1887. Until about the beginning of 1887 he held services each Sunday. From that time he held services on alternate Sundays. From the beginning of November, 1887, he held services at Chatfield on alternate Sundays.

During the clergyman's absence on Sundays, A. E. Hazzard held service Sunday morning. A very prosperous Sunday school was organized by Mrs. George G. Stevens, about 1867, and maintained in great efficiency by her untiring zeal and energy ever since, supported by an excellent staff of teachers. She was aided by Henry M. Smith, who took charge of the work during Mrs. Stevens' absence in Florida, during the winter. Rev. Thomas K. Allen accepted the call of the vestry and entered upon his duties as rector on the first Sunday in November, 1889, giving services twice a month until the first Sunday in October, 1894, when he resigned, after a pastorate of five years. The Rev. S. Wilson Moran accepted the call, residing at West Salem, Wis. He resigned in June, 1897. Rev. C. G. Adams accepted a call October 7, 1897, residing in Rushford and giving one Sunday each month to Caledonia.

On June 15, 1898, the movement began for a new church building. The rector invited F. M. Smith, H. M. Smith and A. E. Hazzard to inspect plans presented by John Sutcliffe, architect, of Chicago. January 14, 1899, the contract was awarded to Knutson Bros., Rushford. The old building was torn down May 8, and the cornerstone laid by Bishop Gilbert June 19. The Rev. C. G. Adams resigned, resignation taking effect October 1, 1899.

The Rev. J. McJ. Bradshaw came on April, 1900, and resigned July 10, 1902. The Rev. Frederic Pitts came on October 1, 1902; resigned February 10, 1903. The Rev. Sydney Smith arrived in parish as supply, the Rev. Frederic Pitts having resigned. He held services Sunday, February 15, 1903; resigned parish September 4, 1905. On the first Sunday after Easter the Rev. Philip K. Edwards became rector of the parish; resigned in February, 1909. The Rev. William Ambrose Dennis became rector on April 1, 1909, and held the first service as rector on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1909. Rev. Mr. Dennis resigned in 1910. The Rev. William Henry Pond was called in September, 1910, and moved to Rushford November 1, 1910. He is the present incumbent.

Emmanuel Parish has a beautiful stone church, stone parish-house and a rectory.

## CONGREGATIONAL.

The First Congregational Church of Spring Valley is the oldest church organization in Spring Valley, being organized May 24, 1856. The meeting for organization was held at the residence of Deacon Washington Lloyd which was located where the present Methodist Episcopal parsonage stands. Rev. Ira Tracy of Wisconsin was moderator of the meetings and J. B. Thayer scribe. The following were the original members, none of whom are now living: Washington Lloyd, Mrs. W. Lloyd, Daniel Scoville, Mrs. D. Scoville, J. G. Bouldin, Mrs. J. G. Bouldin, Job Strong, Mrs. J. Strong, Jos. B. Thayer, Jos. R. Kellogg, Mrs.

Eleanor Kellogg, Mrs. David Higby, Mrs. Ezra Scoville, Mrs. I. N. Cummings, Mrs. H. A. Billings, Washington Lloyd was chosen deacon and Daniel Scoville, clerk.

The first meeting for public worship was held in the store of Billings & Strong, on the site now occupied by M. E. Molstad's store. The second meeting was in the store of Thos. Watson where the First National Bank is now located. In the summer of 1857 meetings were held in a slab shanty erected by Deacon Lloyd near where Fred Hamlin's residence is now situated and afterwards in the public school building, until the erection of the first house of worship, which was begun in 1866 and dedicated July 22, 1868. This building was of wood, 31 by 43 feet, and stood on a lot near the location, but fronting on Broadway, instead of to the south as now. In 1876 the building was turned around, enlarged to its present size, 32 by 64 feet, and veneered on the outside with brick. The church was helped more or less in the support of its ministers by the American Home Missionary Society until its twenty-first year, when it became self-supporting.

Rev. Ira Tracy was the first pastor; he began his labors with the church in September, 1856. The church has had twenty pastors in all. The earliest surviving members of the church are W. L. Kellogg, S. C. Kellogg and Mrs. Amanda Kellogg, who joined in April 1859. The present membership of the church is 179. In all, since its organization, 765 persons have united with the church. The church owns a good parsonage, which is located just west of the church building.

The present officers of the church and its various societies are as follows: Pastor, Rev. Alex E. Cutler, who began his labors with the church Feb. 1, 1909. Deacons—W. L. Kellogg, Wm. Mason, H. Samble, M. E. Rumsey, F. Kingsley, J. W. Barber. Prudential Board—the pastor, deacons and Mrs. E. W. Thayer, Emma Mueller, Alice Steffens. Clerk, W. L. Kellogg (Mr. Kellogg was first elected clerk July 15, 1861, and in all has served as clerk about forty-eight years). Treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Hunt. Superintendent of Sun'ay school, J. W. Barber, secretary Nellie Hixby. President of Christian Endeavor Society, Vivian Barnes. President of Ladies' Benevolent Society (Ladies Aid), Miss Alice Steffens. Trustees of the Church Society—Everett Jones (chairman), Wm. Mason, S. C. Babcock, H. S. Roland, Robt. McNee, H. H. Steffens, secretary, A. R. Jorris, treasurer, Lyle Hamlin. All these societies are in good condition and the church exerts a strong influence for good in the entire community.

The Congregational Church of Hamilton had its beginning June 12, 1860, when a meeting was held at the home of Horace P. Sleerer. At that time it was voted to call a council on June 21, to organize the church. At the appointed time, the following ministers and delegates met at Hamilton to organize. If advisable, a Congregational church: Rev. J. E. Furhank, Carlmona Congregational Church; Rev. J. E. Strong, of St. Charles Congregational church; Rev. Ira Tracy, of Spring Valley Congregational church; Deacon W. Floyd, of the same church; Rev. E. D. Holt of Chatfield Presbyterian church. Rev. Ira Tracy was chosen moderator and Rev. E. D. Holt, scribe. After a sermon by E. D. Holt, articles of faith were adopted and the fol-

lowing persons associated themselves together under the name of the First Congregational Church of Hamilton, Minn.: Gullelmus Carter, Mrs. Letsey Carter, William Gee, Mrs. William Gee, H. P. Sleeper, Asa A. Northrup, Mrs. M. Northrup, H. S. H. Hayes, Mary C. Hudson and Mrs. Almira Sleeper.

June 30, 1860, the church invited Rev. Ira Tracy to act as pastor, and chose G. Carter as deacon. In 1870 plans were made for a church building, but the matter was delayed until 1871. May 27, 1871, the corner stone was laid. June 11, 1873, the house was dedicated, free of debt. In December, 1885, initiatory steps were taken to incorporate the church as such, to hold all property. In March, 1886, the act of incorporation was completed, and the society gave all property into the hands of the church. The first three pastors were Revs. Ira Tracy, S. M. Elliott and J. S. Rounce. Then came the Rev. R. S. Armstrong. — Bliss, F. L. Fuller, E. W. Merrill, D. Goodsell, W. G. Roberts, E. F. Hunt, J. F. Marvin, J. A. Rowell, D. C. Reed and — Borgess. The church is now disbanded, deaths and removals being the cause. The few remaining members now attend at Racine, in Mower county.

Congregational Church of Rushford. — This society was organized May 19, 1860, Rev. Wm. W. Snell being the pastor, and Rev. D. Burt, of Winona, assisting in the services. The original members were Wm. W. Snell and wife, Jane E. Snell, Mrs. Lucinda Newcomb, Mrs. Ameline Ada Hitchcock, and Wm. D. Stark.

Mr. Snell was pastor for many years. A Sunday school was opened with a dozen members in 1857. Mr. Snell was merely instrumental in the erection of the chapel. Services had usually been held in Mr. Snell's small living room. But about 1859 or 1860, his father sent him the sum of \$200 to use as he saw fit, suggesting at the same time that it might be properly applied to making their dwelling house a little more comfortable. It was used toward building a house of worship, \$100 being added by a friend from the east, and something over \$100 raised by the citizens. The Ladies' Sewing Society, in the fall of 1861, resolved to procure a bell for the chapel, and so devoted the \$20 in the treasury to that object. Mr. Snell was going east, and took the funds along, and securing the additional amount from eastern friends, the bell was procured and shipped to Rushford, and on January 1, 1862, its sound invited the villagers to worship.

The Bristol Congregational Church was formed about 1867. The edifice was in the state of Iowa. The first pastor was Rev. Mr. Jones, well known as "Little Jones," on account of his diminutive size. In 1859, meetings were held in Mr. Reave's house, and at the house of T. P. Chase, on sections fourteen and fifteen.

Canton Congregational Church was organized about 1857, with the following members: I. N. Smith and wife, James Lynn and wife, and John Miller. The meeting was held at the house of the latter, Rev. Ira Tracey, of Spring Valley, officiating. Meetings were held at the log schoolhouse. Mr. Tracey was followed by the old pioneer, Rev. W. W. Snell, and this became a branch of the Rushford society. From February, 1859, to some time in 1861, Mr. Snell came regularly once in two weeks. Rev. George Bent was



the next expounder of the gospel. He remained to preach every second Sunday for nine years, and was followed by Rev. John A. Cruzen, from Iowa, who supplied the pulpit for five months. Rev. C. A. Marshall followed, remaining for about three years, having service once in two weeks. Rev. H. R. Lamb was the next supply, then Rev. James A. Mitchell. In 1876, Rev. George Sterling officiated. Rev. Charles W. Wiley preached here up to April 26, 1880, having first arrived in 1878. All these ministers were connected with congregations in Iowa.

#### EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.

There are two churches of the Evangelical Association in Fillmore county, one at Preston and one at Cherry Grove.

**Zion's Church, Evangelical Association, Preston.**—In the year 1857, one Rev. Leonard Von Wald came across country from Wisconsin by way of Winona on foot to this locality and after due announcement held his first services in an old schoolhouse in the village of Preston in the month of August. A few people of the denomination had already moved here from Canada. They were Margaret Hopp, Michael Diebold and wife, Mrs. Michael Anstett, Catherine Moebis, Barbara Schwitzer and Mother Wombacher. In February of 1858, after a revival meeting, a number of others became members, among whom were Christian Brill and wife, also Christian Rappe and wife. During L. Von Eschen's pastorate in 1859, efforts were made to establish a permanent society by building a small stone church in the village of Preston and after many hardships and much hard labor experienced in securing the building material, the church was dedicated in November of 1859 by Rev. L. Buehler, presiding elder of Winona District of the Wisconsin Conference. This was the first church of any denomination established in Preston.

In July, 1860, the first quarterly conference of the congregation was held by Israel Kuter, presiding elder of the Winona district, at which time Christian Rappe was elected treasurer of this society. At a second quarterly meeting in December, 1860, a resolution was passed that funds be gathered wherewith to begin the building of a parsonage the following spring on the lot adjoining the church lot to the west. Although the first church was torn down and a new one put in place, and a new parsonage put in place of the one first built, the location of either was not changed.

In 1869, at the first session of the newly organized Minnesota Conference held at East Prairie, Rice county, Minn., Preston was designated as a station, a self supporting congregation, and in 1873 the congregation was incorporated. The first trustees were Christian Hiltig (treasurer), Adam Zimmerman and George Wombacher. Time was when the old church edifice would accommodate all, but during Rev. John Drehmel's pastorate the members found that the old building would no longer accommodate all who wished to worship with them, so after only sixteen years of service the old building was torn down and a new brick church was built on the same site at a cost of \$3,000. The building committee were: C. Rappe, J. Wintz, A. Zimmerman, J. Link and A. Link. Although many difficulties presented themselves to these people while securing material and in the

building of their church, yet their hardships were not near so many and the difficulties not near so great as experienced by the brethren who built the old stone structure sixteen years previous. Among those who helped erect the first structure might be mentioned: George Wombacher, John Link, Chris Brill, Christ Rappe, Geo. and John Hopp, Sr., Michael Anstett and notably Michael Diebold, who worked all summer as the mason in laying the walls of the building, all labor being done free of charge, and Chris Brill, who gave his services as carpenter.

The new church was dedicated November 28, 1875, by Bishop Escher. The pastors who served this charge from its beginning to the present year, 1912, are: Rev. L. Von Wald, 1857-1859; Rev. George Von Eschen, 1858-1860; Rev. Joseph Ralskopf, 1859-1860; Rev. John Hammetter, 1860-1862; Rev. Louis Seder, 1860-1862; Rev. William Stegner, 1862-1864; Rev. Henry Klingsorge, 1864-1866; Rev. C. Wels, 1864-1866; Rev. D. W. Long, 1866-1868; Rev. Conrad Werner, 1868-1868; Rev. L. Von Wald, 1868-1870; Rev. George Jahn, 1870-1873; Rev. John Drehmel, 1873-1876; Rev. August Knebel, 1876-1879; Rev. George Jahn, 1879-1880; Rev. J. L. Stegner, 1880-1883; Rev. C. W. Sydow, 1883-1886; Rev. F. W. Lenz, 1886-1889; Rev. E. J. Hiescher, 1889-1892; Rev. Fred C. Schmidt, 1892-1895; Rev. Silas Goetz, 1895-1897; Rev. A. Zabel, 1897-1899; J. J. Boelter, 1899-1901; Rev. A. Geyman, 1901-1905; Rev. P. A. Lang, 1905-1910; Rev. Henry C. Schmidt, 1910 to the present time.

This was also the center for a number of neighboring congregations to meet in annual camp meetings for many years. In 1902 the state Young People's convention was held here, at which time Mrs. E. M. Spreng, president of the National Woman's Missionary Society, was present and organized a local auxiliary. In May, 1908, the Minnesota Conference met here in their forty-first session. The ministerial meeting of St. Paul district was also held here once in late years. Three ministers and their wives went out from here to preach the Gospel: Rev. Chris. Brill and wife in 1860; Rev. William Link and wife in 1900, and Rev. Reuben Wintz and wife in 1900.

As time passed repairs were needed. During Rev. A. Zabel's pastorate the parsonage was remodeled and enlarged throughout. During Rev. A. Geyman's pastorate the old stoves were removed and a furnace placed in the basement of the church wherewith to heat the building. The main auditorium of the church was also treated to a thorough renovation. During Rev. I. A. Lang's pastorate all the old wooden sidewalks in and along the east and south sides of the property were removed and cement walks put in place thereof. The old pews were removed from the church and new ones put in place. During Rev. H. C. Schmidt's pastorate the interior of the church was given a thorough overhauling and new electric light fixtures were put in place of the old electric light fixtures. The excavation of the basement begun during Rev. Geyman's pastorate was completed last year preparatory to putting in a class room. Preparations are also being made at present to build a much needed barn for the pastor's horse.

The church has a live Sunday school and an enrollment of ninety scholars. The Ladies' Aid is small, but very ac-

tive; the same can be said of the Woman's Missionary society. There is also a Young People's society. At present there is a membership of ninety in the congregation. The trustees are Alf E. Riehl, president; Charles Behnke, treasurer, and Joseph Hahn, secretary. I. A. Vickerman is and has been for a number of years the superintendent of the Sunday school.

Among those who have been active in the past thirty years or more of the existence of this society are: George Wintz, J. Wintz, Albert Link, Andrew Reuber, John Reuber, Fred Behnke, Michael Anstett, Father Trende, J. Anstett, W. O. Kleimn-hagen and many others.

#### GERMAN LUTHERAN.

The Doctor Martin Luther Church was founded by the late Rev. Michael Reck, on September 23, 1867. At that time there were few Lutherans in this vicinity. Some of the first pioneers were: Christoph Laing, Theo. Freiheit, John Moenchessang, Chr. Hinze, Ernst Brandt, Fred. Jech, Gottlieb Freiheit, August Schultz, Albert Schultz, George Sturm and Fred. Zimmer. This was the first German Lutheran church in Fillmore county, and from this point other Lutheran churches were established. Pastor M. Reck remained here about twelve years and succeeded by Rev. Maertens, who remained for two years. He was succeeded by Rev. John Eckhoff, who remained here for a period of nearly thirty-two years. Under his pastorate the new church edifice was erected about ten years ago, but at the same time the congregation was divided, a part forming a body at Wykoff, the other at Spring Valley. The new church is standing on the old site. The congregation in consequence of the division, is small in membership, counting only thirty-seven, looking hopefully in the future. In the spring of 1911 Rev. Eckhoff left the parish and was succeeded by Rev. E. R. Melchert. The church has its own parsonage, built many years ago and renovated since. It also has a small Sunday School and a promising Ladies' Aid Society.—By E. R. Melchert.

The German Lutheran Zion's Congregation of Spring Valley was organized in December, 1901. This congregation and the one at Wykoff called Rev. John Hafermann as their pastor. The pioneers of the church are August Lenz, August Kruegel, Albert Kumm. The first services were held in the schoolhouse in Spring Valley. The present church building was erected in the year 1902 in Spring Valley, under the pastorate of Rev. John Hafermann. Soon after a parsonage was bought near the church building. Rev. John Hafermann was pastor for eight years. In 1907 the Wykoff congregation called their own minister and Rev. John Hafermann served the congregation of Spring Valley and the congregation of Hamilton, six miles distant from Spring Valley. In April, 1909, the congregation called as their pastor Rev. A. Schoebel, who also serves the congregation at Hamilton. The church has a flourishing Sunday school. The parish school is held from November to Easter. There is also German school during a month in summer. The Young People's society and Ladies' Aid society are also in a flourishing condition. Forty-four

families belong to the congregation. The officers are: August Kruegel and Otto Kohn, elders; Fred Lenz, secretary; Albert Kumm, cashier; August Schmidt, Carl Sturm and Carl Bieljun, trustees.—By the pastor.

German Lutheran Evangelical St. Paul's Church of Preston.—The first services were held in the Court House in the latter years of the sixties. The Rev. M. Beck conducted the services. This pastor had other charges in Big Spring, Granger and Spring Valley. Those who know this venerable Rev. M. Beck tell us that he walked from Spring Valley to his other charges. As he was a very energetic pastor it took him but a little while to start congregations and he laid a substantial foundation for the future. Among those who first attended the services in Preston were: Mike Marzolf, Sr., Henry Neumann, Henry Renner, Mike Hopp, August Marquardt, August Weyrauch, Sr., Fred Diekow, Fred Bender, John Schmidt, Carl Schulz, Henry Rohde, Joseph Josephski, Sr., Aug. Weyrauch was the first superintendent of the Sunday school.

Some of the first who were baptized were: Frank Diekow, Oct. 5, 1873; Anton Groesch, Oct. 5, 1873; Katherine Schmidt, Dec. 10, 1873; Carl Hinz, Dec. 21, 1873; Sarah Kern, April 26, 1874; Maria Ihach, June 28, 1874.

The first class was confirmed March 29, 1874, and consisted of: Kaspar Weyrauch, Marie Kul, Auguste Gatzke, Anna Pfaff, Marie Pfaff, John Schmidt, Philipp Schmidt, and Wilhelm Haas.

Some of first who were married were: William Marquardt to Hulda Dewes, Feb. 13, 1874; Joseph Pfaff to Cornelia Haribert April 9, 1876; August Schulz to Caroline Schmidt Aug. 1, 1876.

Some of the first who were buried were: Anna Blumenschein, Dec. 24, 1873, buried by Rev. P. Herterich; Mike Marzolf, Sr., July 19, 1874, buried by Rev. P. Herterich; William Marquardt, Nov. 24, 1874, by Rev. P. Hartmann.

The church was organized into a corporate body under the laws of the state, April 28, 1886. The articles of incorporation were signed by Louis Kraemer, Henry Lulman, Mike Hopp, Carl Kuethe, Fred Neumann, Henry Neumann and Louie Groth.

The church edifice was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$1,400. The first organ was donated by Mike Marzolf, Sr., and Mike Hopp, at a cost of \$200.

The parsonage was built in 1893 in connection with a parochial school. These buildings are situated on the church campus. The parsonage was renovated in 1910 by the Ladies Aid Society. Electric light fixtures were also installed. A pipe organ was put into the church in 1910 at the cost of \$1,000. The present church was built in 1903 at a cost of \$4841.11. Joe Drier & Co. were the contractors.

The Sunday school is in a flourishing condition. The work is done in the German and English languages. The present enrollment is ninety-four children, with eight teachers. Carl Kuethe has been superintendent of the Sunday school for twenty-seven years. The Ladies' Aid Society now numbers twenty-eight members. Much has been accomplished by this society in local and outside work. Another society within the church is the Mutual Aid Society which is in connection with the German Lutheran Synod of Iowa and other states. In case of death the society pays the sum of \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000.



The present membership is 65 families, 385 souls. The officers of the church are: William Kuethe, John Kruegel, Erich Schmidt, Albert Kriese, Herman Rathke, and William Pfister.

The pastors of the church have been: Rev. Mike Beck, Rev. Sebastian Hertick, Rev. Otto Hartmann, Rev. Fred Kuethe, Rev. Adolph List, Rev. Fred Burkhardt, Rev. Henry Mueller, Rev. Paul Kumpf. The latter is serving at the present time.

The German Lutheran Emanuel Congregation of Wykoff was organized in 1896, the members having previously been associated with the Martin Luther Congregation of Spring Valley township. The first pastor, the Rev. Edkhoff served until 1901, and then the Rev. John Hafermann was called jointly by the Emanuel congregation of Wykoff and the Zion's congregation of Spring Valley. Rev. Hast was called to the Emanuel congregation in 1907 and the following year came the present pastor, the Rev. T. Wagner. From 1896 to 1901 meetings were held in the school house and in different churches. A church was erected in 1901, costing, together with the parsonage, about \$8,000. The parsonage was built in 1903. The church has a Sunday school and Ladies' Aid society, and a summer school is conducted for the children. A regular school for the teaching of the catechism is also conducted.

The Bristol German Lutheran Society was instituted in 1871. Rev. M. Reeck was the first preacher, and at first held meetings in the schoolhouse. A church was built in 1878, at a cost of \$1,500. The first trustees were Gustavus Krueger, Michael Michael, and Henry Williams.

**Harmony German Evangelical Church.**—This society was organized in 1874. Up to the year 1882, services were held in the schoolhouse, when a small building was constructed on section 8, for both church and school purposes. When first organized there were about eighteen members.

#### BAPTIST.

**The First Baptist Church of Spring Valley.**—In 1863, an organization was effected with thirteen members. The first service was by Rev. Amory Gale, of Minneapolis, in the schoolhouse. Three or four years later the society purchased the old school building and removed it. Among the early pastors were: J. G. Craven, R. H. Ketchum, M. D. Reeves, C. D. Farnsworth, James Mitchell, F. S. Wilter, and S. S. Utter.

**The Free Baptist Church of Beaver** was organized July 12, 1862, with twelve members, at the house of Mr. Gillman, by Elder Cyrus Young. He remained on duty for about one year, when he was succeeded by Elder Reeves. The services were at private houses and at the schoolhouse on section twenty-six. Rev. M. Young was an early pastor.

**The Free Baptist Church of Fillmore.**—Rev. M. D. Reeves organized a society holding to the tenets of this faith in 1868, in the house of John Crain, with eight members. In 1873, a church edifice was erected in the village of Wykoff, 26x41 feet, the cost being \$1,500. Early pastors were: Rev. M. B. Felt, Rev. W. C. Sweet and Rev. J. M. Young.

**Carlmona Baptists.**—In the spring of 1856, Rev. T. P. Ropes got together a Baptist Society of fifteen members,

holding meetings at first in private houses and later in the schoolhouse.

**Bloomfield Baptist Church.**—A Baptist church in Etina which was built in 1871, 28x36 feet, erected at a cost of \$1,500. The first sermon for the denomination was delivered by Rev. Farnsworth.

**Pilot Mound Baptist Church.**—On May 28, 1859, Rev. G. W. Fuller, of Chatfield, assisted in the institution of this society. W. Wendell, having changed his views in relation to baptism, was probably instrumental in inaugurating this movement, and united with the society. He, already being a licensed preacher, became the pastor, and was ordained September 21 following.

**Pilot Mound Free Baptist.**—In 1879, this society was brought into existence under the inspiring exertions of Rev. Cyrus Calkins as pastor.

**Canton Baptist Church.**—As early as 1854, Elder William Bly came here on a missionary tour from Elliot, and as there were no roads he blazed the trees as he came, to find his way back. He had service at the house of Elijah Austin in section eleven, which was north of the present village. In 1856, an organization was effected, with Mr. Bly as preacher. Rev. Mr. Sheldon and Rev. Mr. Morse, were afterwards here. The meetings were in the schoolhouse. So many of the members moved away that the meetings were finally discontinued.

**Chatfield Baptist Church.**—At one time late in the fifties there was an organization of Baptists here. In 1858, a small one story building was erected, 20x10 feet, and for quite a time there were regular services, but after a time they were discontinued.

#### CALVINISTIC.

The Welch Calvinistic Church was organized late in the sixties by Rev. J. D. Williams and Rev. Daniel Rowlands. The Welch residents of this town had attended service in York previous to this time, at private houses and in the log schoolhouse. The above mentioned clergymen, with Rev. Jahn Evans, preached here at different times. In 1874 the church was constructed on section eighteen, at a cost of about \$2,100.

#### CATHOLIC.

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Preston.**—The first service was in 1857, in the house of J. O'Brien by Rev. Father O'Farrell, and from that time services were irregularly held until October, 1878, when the church was regularly organized, and a church erected at a cost of \$2,000. The first pastor was Rev. Father McDavid.

**Catholic Church of Spring Valley.**—The church at Spring Valley was commenced August, 1878, and so far completed that services were held on December 8, 1878, by Rev. Father William Riordan, of Chatfield. Before the erection of the church services were held in the residence of D. A. Sullivan.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church of Preble** was erected in 1872. Previous to this time the services in the interest of this faith were at irregular intervals by priests from the nearest available points. Rev. Father Pendergast, of Winona, it is believed, held the first of these services, at the house of Martin Horihan, on section twenty-four, about the year 1857.

**Catholic Church of Carrolton.**—The first mass ever said in town was at the house of Mr. M. Mulholland in 1856, by Rev. Father Michael Kinsley. A church was commenced in the southeast corner of section seven. The farmers around found the logs and put up the building ready to receive the roof, but it was never finished. After remaining in this condition a few years it was destroyed by a prairie fire. The people now attend service in the village of Lanesboro.

**Catholic Church of Lanesboro.**—Service was held at various houses as early as 1856. In 1859, Rev. Father Pendegast, of Winona, had regular appointments here. In 1859, it was resolved to erect a place of worship, and a temporary building was put up. In 1871, another edifice was commenced, and in 1873, it was completed. Among the priests who have officiated here are Father Cahill, Father Riordan, Father Cornelius and Father Caine. The first services here are said to have been by Archbishop Ireland at the house of Michael Mulholland.

**Catholic Church of Fountain.**—The first mass was said at the residence of James Mulroy in July, 1856, by Rev. Father Kinsley. and afterwards services were held in various houses until the church was built.

**Catholic Church of Carimona.**—A Catholic Church, on section thirty-one, was built in 1875, at a cost of \$2,000, and is a frame structure. The first remembered mass in town was by Father Callaghan, at the house of Edward Maloney in 1857.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church of Chatfield** was organized about 1866. A structure was built at this time at a cost of \$6,000. Father Easing was the earliest priest and remained three years. The parsonage was built in 1868. Father William Riordan was here for twelve years. Father John Hanly took charge in July, 1881.

**The Catholic Church of Canton.**—In 1889 a Catholic Church was erected on the west side of the Canton village plat, the site of which is thirty-six by sixty feet, at a cost of about \$5,000; and is known as the "Church of the Assumption." The church int embraces an entire block, the size of which is 250 feet by 260 feet, and is a very handsome location, is ornamented with evergreen and deciduous trees.

**The Vision of the Assumption.**—The Church of the Assumption at Canton was built in 1889. On a bright Sunday morning, in 1892, there appeared in the upper round window in the gable of the church, a woman's face of sainted outlines. For a time the woman's face appeared alone. Then there appeared a woman and a child. And still later this was changed to a man, woman and child. Benefits were derived from gazing on the vision, and soon miracles were reported. People flocked to Canton from all over the world. A tented city was built, special trains were run, and many people were cured of their ailments. Crutches and all sorts of bodily appliances, no longer needed, were left at the church in evidence of wonders wrought. At last Bishop Cotter removed the glass and took it to Winona. In the meantime, the glasses in the window had been changed many times, with no diminution in the appearance of the vision. Rev. Daniel Jones, the pastor of the church, built not only the Canton church, but also the Preston and

Harmony churches, the former in 1889 and the latter in 1906. He also built the church at White Bear, Minn., in 1884-85.

#### UNITED BRETHREN.

**Fillmore.**—This society was organized in 1874, Rev. Phillips being the officiating minister. In 1876, a building was erected in the southern part of town, size 35x45 feet, at a cost of \$7,000. Revs. Vance, Hillis, and Beacon were early pastors.

**United Brethren Church of Fountain.**—This denomination organized a society at the schoolhouse in district No. 77, in 1879. Robert Shipton was the class leader, and there were eleven members.

#### NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN.

There are thirty Norwegian congregations in Fillmore county, with twenty-four churches. Sixteen of the congregations belong to the United Lutheran church, seven to the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, five to the Hauge Synod, and two to the Methodist Episcopal.

As early as 1855, Rev. E. Ellson preached in various parts of the county, as did also Rev. V. Koren, another devout Lutheran pastor.

**Arendahl Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.**—In the fall of 1856 Arne E. Boyum, an evangelist of Dane county, Wisconsin, held the first gospel service in the home of Nels Gullickson. Present at the service were Swan T. Husetoft, Aslag Anderson, Peder P. Haslerud, Harold O. Moen, Hans Bergsland, Anders Rasmussen and many others.

The Arendahl congregation was organized in year 1858 when it called Arne E. Boyum, who was ordained as its pastor. The first trustees of the church were Peter Nelson, Hans Hanson, Bergsland, Albert Anderson (clerk), Albert Anderson (treasurer), Lars Thompson. The first church, a log house, 18 by 34, was erected and dedicated in 1860. This served until 1863, when a frame house was put up, 30 by 40 feet. It was afterward extended eighteen feet. In 1899 a new, modern edifice was erected at a cost of about \$3,000. The present membership is 317 souls.

Rev. Boyum served the church thirty-eight successive years. In 1896 a call was extended to C. L. Rachle, of Red Wing Seminary. He accepted it and was ordained to the pastorate and served about two years. In 1898 Rev. J. J. Bredablik, of Chicago, took charge of the church and served about four years. In 1903 Rev. M. J. Westphal, of Viroqua, Wis., accepted a call and is pastor of the church now.

A parsonage was built in 1897 at Peterson, where there is a church under the same parish.

Arendahl church has a Sunday school of about forty children and five teachers; one young people's society; one young ladies' society, and one ladies' aid.

The first confirmation was held in the summer of 1860, July 1. The class consisted of twelve pupils of which two still are residing members of the church, namely, Ole E. Boyum, a brother of Rev. Boyum, and Mrs. O. A. O. Kjelland.

The present leading officers of the church are: Deacons A. E. Boyum, A. J. Agrimson, T. P. Aarsvold; trustees, Herman Johnson, Hans I. Torrer-son, Ivar J. Skarstad; secretary, John

J. Agrimsen; treasurer, Erick I. Torgerson; Bertha H. Torgerson, organist; M. J. Westphal, pastor.—By the Pastor.

Peterson Norwegian Lutheran Congregation.—In the year 1872 on April 26 at the home of Even O. Tuff was organized the Peterson Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Rev. A. E. Boyum was the first pastor. The members present at the organization were Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Tuff, P. P. Haslerud, E. P. Quickstad, E. A. Hjelle, O. Ensberg. Rev. A. E. Boyum and others. The first officers were: Trustees, E. P. Quickstad, Ole Ensberg, Even A. Hjelle; deacons, E. P. Quickstad, L. C. Stokland, Ole Ensberg; secretary, E. A. Hjelle. The communicants numbered about fifty. At this meeting a building committee on church building was elected. This was E. P. Quickstad, E. A. Hjelle, Ole Ensberg, and secretary and treasurer, E. A. Hjelle. Subscription toward the new church amounted to \$683. The cost of the church which was built in Peterson amounted to \$1,142.98 and a debt of \$103.14 when the church was dedicated in the fall of 1874.

Rev. A. E. Boyum was pastor from 1874 to 1896; Rev. C. L. Rachie from 1896 to 1898; Rev. J. J. Breidablik from 1898 to 1902. From 1903 to the present time Rev. M. J. Westphal has been pastor. In 1900 a new, modern church was built at a cost of \$6,506.58. About one year later it was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. In 1902 a new church was built again at about the same cost as the one that burned.

A parsonage was built at Peterson in 1897 at a cost of about \$2,500. The church has a very thrifty Sunday school of about thirty pupils and five teachers. A Luther League of young people is in progress. The Ladies' Aid Society and Young Ladies' Society are doing well in working for the church and the missions. The total membership of the congregation at present is 167. The officers are: Trustees, John Ensberg, Lars Olness and C. R. Moen; deacons, J. C. Dayton, F. E. Thompson, Olaus Ensberg; secretary, E. Halvorson; treasurer, J. O. Ensberg; Sunday school superintendent, F. E. Thompson; president Ladies' Aid, Mrs. N. Stedje; president Young Ladies' Society, Bertha Thompson; president Luther League, A. O. A. Moen.

Among the active members of past and present should be mentioned Olaus Ensberg, J. Ensberg, Lars Olness, George P. Haslerud and E. Halvorson.—By M. J. Westphal, pastor.

First Evangelical Norwegian Lutheran Church of Newburg.—The rugged and sturdy race inhabiting the Scandinavian peninsula has for centuries past been deeply devoted to its religious traditions, serving with great devotion and fidelity the teachings and doctrine of the state church, which is Lutheran. When emigration for America started some time along in the twenties, almost a century ago, they did not leave behind them this heritage, and within an incredibly short time after planting themselves on American soil, and having erected their rude, log cabins, the first thought of the people of this race was to provide in some way for their spiritual wants. This soon manifested itself by the building of houses of worship where they could meet and worship their God according to the teachings of their forefathers, also to instruct their children that this faith might be handed down to future generations yet unborn. That these old

pioneers built well and probably better than they knew, is shown by the countless churches, schools, colleges, orphan homes, homes for the aged, hospitals, and the missionary work both foreign and domestic. At this time about 475,000 American Norwegians and their descendants embrace the Lutheran faith, most of this number being located in the Northwest.

The early pioneers in Newburg and Preble townships who emigrated from Norway came overland mostly via the oxen and wagon route from La Salle county, Illinois, the influx having its beginning about the year 1853. Among those who came about this time, from 1853 to 1857, and who took an active and leading part in organizing and maintaining the First Evangelical Norwegian Lutheran Church at this place about two miles northeast of Newburg we find the following, nearly all with a few exceptions having crossed the Great Divide from whence no traveler ever returns:

Christian Christopherson, Jacob Larson, S. S. Hookland, Nels Johnson (Nessa), Jacob Jacobson (Haga), Rasmus Spande, John Jacobson, E. C. Spande, Samson Anderson, Thore T. Faal and many others.

A rude log school house located about one mile northwest from the church site was used as a meeting house until the first church was built in 1864, just across the township line on land which belonged to Jacob Elefson.

The congregation was organized by Rev. Peder Asbjornson June 8, 1857. On May 21, 1861, a meeting of the male members was held at the house of Jacob Larson, when the first set of trustees was elected as follows: Christian Christopherson, elected for three years; Jacob Jacobson, elected for two years; Jacob Larson, elected for one year. Rev. A. A. Schele was chairman of this meeting and Christian Christopherson secretary. The first ordained minister was a Rev. Lars Morheim, who ministered to the spiritual wants of the people, but stayed here only a few years. The writer of this sketch being a comparatively young man, has been unable to get the life history of this man, and can say little of him. In 1856 Rev. A. A. Schele came here from Milwaukee and bought a farm close to the little village of Newburg. About this time he was called to break the bread of life, which he did ably and well for about nineteen years. He was not educated for the ministry, but was nevertheless a fluent and able speaker and, being of a practical turn of mind, did much to lead and guide the people during these troublous times, when many influences were slowly but surely at work sowing the seeds of discord and strife which came like a destructive tempest a year or two after he left. In 1876 he moved to the Red River valley, locating near Halstad, Norman County, where he died in 1885.

As previously stated the first church was built in 1864, a wooden structure which was utilized as a house of worship until May, 1904, when it was torn down and a new modern building was put up at a cost of about \$7,000. It was the most beautiful country church for miles around and built on the old site, but was destined to a short duration. On the evening of May 2, 1912, it was struck by lightning and as it was beyond human power to save it from destruction, it was in one short hour a mass of

smoking ruins. On May 14 it was already decided to rebuild and as these lines are written steps are already being taken to realize this decision.

This congregation has two cemeteries, the first and oldest one about one mile north from the church site, located on the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 34. The first one to be called by the angel of death who was buried here was Inga M. Elefson, a sister of Jacob Elefson, whose earthly strife ended in October, 1856. Here rests all that is mortal of the greatest number of the old pioneers who did so much to up-build and develop the so-called Richland prairie, where they lived and moved and not only provided for their material wants and comforts but also endeavored to satisfy that longing and craving which finds no rest or contentment here below. Long may their memory live. Up to the year 1878 no burials had been made about the church. In the fall of this year the mortal remains of Paul Hanson was laid away here and in June, 1879, the wife of the pastor died and was also buried here. From this time on this was also used as a resting place for the departed ones and the many monuments and grassy mounds remind one of that unknown journey that we all sooner or later must take.

After A. A. Schele left, Rev. H. L. Haakonson was called as minister for this congregation in the fall of the year 1876. Up to this time there was no parsonage but no time was lost in erecting suitable buildings for the new pastor who was to arrive. Ten acres of land was purchased of Thos. Pearson close by the church and the buildings went up as soon as it could be done at that time. Lumber was hauled from Lanesboro and Rushford and it was some time before everything was in shape for occupancy.

Rev. Haakonson was a young man, a gifted and talented minister of the gospel, but his coming here proved to be an unfortunate and sad event. His ministerial career here was attended by many difficulties for the congregation and much sorrow and tribulation for the pastor. His path was not strewn with roses while here and the mental anguish and bitter remorse which were his lot undoubtedly broke his spirit and brought about his early demise. Being very eager to see his people walk the paths of righteousness, he was probably overzealous in his ways of bringing this about. A large number of the young people at this time were anything but what Christian and moral young people should be and the good pastor, wishing to have it otherwise, tried to chastise and persuade these people to mend their ways. Thus it came about that factions arose. In December, 1881, Rev. Haakonson resigned as pastor and a number of his parishoners seceded from the old congregation, forming a new one. For a number of years there were two congregations, each with its own church and pastor. In the meantime efforts were made to bring about reconciliations, and united the two warring factions, which was finally accomplished in April, 1895. The writer will not attempt to pass judgment as to where the fault lay which brought about this controversy, which was very disastrous to the spirit and growth and uplift of the church, but will simply relate the historical fact that a jury of some of the ablest ministers and

laymen in the synod at that time, after hearing evidence and facts in this case, decided that those who seceded upon the advice of their pastor had a right and were justified in doing so. Rev. Haakonson after living some years in Wisconsin, moved to Tehama County, California, where he died December 2, 1901.

In 1882 Rev. J. J. Nessa was called and stayed about eight or nine years. He did little or nothing to bring about a union of the factions which existed at this time and which brought about so much bitterness and bad feeling between neighbor and neighbor. About 1891 Rev. Nessa moved away and Rev. A. Wright, from Rushford, served the old congregation until 1895. At this time the two factions were united again. Rev. Wright resigned and I. H. Hinderaker, from near Canby, Minn., was chosen. From this time on peace and harmony has prevailed many of the older members having died or moved away and the younger generation finding no reason for keeping up the feud. Reverends Nessa and Wright are still living, the former in Adams County, N. D., and the latter at Rushford, Minn. Rev. Hinderaker stayed among us about six years and moved out to Astoria, S. D., where he has large land holdings and is still serving a congregation as pastor. He moved away having the good will and respect of all who knew him and was an earnest and faithful worker in his chosen calling. Upon Hinderaker's departure, Rev. M. J. Vikingstad, who had congregations about six or seven miles south of Spring Grove, Minn., was called to the pastorate here and commenced his duties in the summer of 1901. In the opinion of the writer he was the most learned and talented pastor of the long list who have served this congregation. His knowledge of events and church history was amazing, and his way and style of interpreting the Holy Scriptures was inspiring and educational. In March, 1909, he moved out to Cooperstown, N. D., where he still lives, having three or four congregations. Rev. Wm. A. Rasmussen was Vikingstad's successor, who commenced his duties here about April 1, 1909, and at present is the pastor here. He has four congregations—one at Hesper, Ia., one at Mabel, Minn., and this one near Newburg; also a small one at Prosper, Minn. This concludes the list of pastors here up to the present time. It may also be added here that the part who seceded from the old congregation here was served by H. L. Haakonson, L. O. Pederson, A. O. Langehaugh, and O. K. Weium, during longer or shorter intervals.

From the time of its organization up to the year 1890 this congregation belonged to the Norwegian Augustana Synod. In this year this synod, the conference, and the Anti-Missourian Brotherhood were united into one, adopted the appropriate and beautiful name by which it has since been known: The Norwegian United Lutheran Church of America. Strange as it may seem to many minds, there have been four large divisions or bodies of Norwegian Lutherans and two or three smaller ones with little if any differences in teachings or creeds, all working with the same aim in view—the saving of souls—all using the same means—the Holy Scriptures and the sacraments, but still pulling apart and thus wasting a good deal of their energy which might

be put to better use. But a new day seems to dawn which is full of hope and promise of better times. Vigorous efforts are now made by these different parts or synods to bring all together into one strong united body. May this day speedily come is the wish of the writer.—By B. Jacobson.

**Satersdahl Congregation.**—The first services of this congregation were held in a log schoolhouse in York township in 1864, in charge of Rev. T. Larson. Those who attended these services were: Ole A. Mork, Ole T. Hofto, Ole A. Lien, S. Iverson, K. Pedersen, Johannes Ellingsen, O. S. Trydal, K. O. Wiisen, K. H. Dale and H. Halverson. The incorporation meeting was held Nov. 24, 1864, and the first officers were Ole A. Mork, K. K. Asager, K. Pedersen and Ole T. Hofto. The first church was erected in 1873. An addition to the church was built in 1897. The same year a parsonage was built in Harmony on a forty-acre tract, the parsonage belonging to the Greenleaf, Satersdahl and Bloomfield congregations. It was later sold at auction. Among the leading members of the congregation may be mentioned J. O. Trydal, John Ivers, Ole K. Olson, Halvor Daly, Knut Hovey and Ole K. Hovey. The first pastor, Rev. T. Larson, served twenty-two years. Rev. P. Dryer served sixteen years. Rev. Bu one year, Rev. Hartman six years, Rev. Reinartson one year. The present pastor is Rev. D. Svenungsen. He also serves at Le Roy, Minn., and at Ridgeway and Cresco, Iowa.

Among the early births in the congregation may be mentioned: Jorge Jorgeson, Sept. 11, 1855; Gunvor Thorson, August 24, 1856; Thor. T. Haugen, Feb. 16, 1856; Ingeborg Lawrence, June 24, 1854; Ole O. Trydal, Mar. 15, 1856. Among the early deaths may be mentioned: John Olson, Nov. 1, 1859; Helge Knudsen, Aug. 22, 1859; Ole S. Wiisen, April 1, 1860; Anna Bertine, Mar. 13, 1862; Mary Olsen, Nov. 18, 1861. Among the early marriages were: Kittil Pedersen to Gunild Olsen, 1862; Ole Gjermundsen to Targor Johnson, 1862; Vette Taraldsen to Dorthia Thorsen, 1863.—Prepared by Joel O. Trydal.

The Bloomfield Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was organized by Rev. V. Korn, from Washington Prairie, Iowa, in the year 1853. The first members were Ole and Mathew Nellickson, Ole and Henry Olson Olan, Peter O. Hadland, Ole Halling, Ole and Gudbrand Ostrud. The congregation called Rev. A. C. Frederickson, from Texas, was its first pastor. He was an eccentric personage with the Rockefeller instinct for money making, but very indifferent as a spiritual leader. From 1863 to 1865, the Rev. L. Stern from Rock Dell, served as minister. He was a very austere man with small ability to win and lead the people. In the year 1865 the congregation was annexed to the Greenfield congregation at Harmony, Minn., Rev. Tobias Larson, pastor. He was a noble-minded, able and conscientious minister. Under his pastorate the congregation grew from a few struggling members to a strong and prosperous body. Articles of incorporation were adopted at a regular meeting Dec. 28, 1864, held at the home of Paul Sharie. The first board of trustees were Ole Nellickson, Lars A. Lundby and Paul Sharie. John Ostrud was elected secretary. In 1875 the congregation severed its connection with Greenfield and together with

Bear Creek and Le Roy (Mower County) congregations issued a call to Rev. O. A. Bu, just arrived from Norway and a graduate from the University at Christiania. He served faithfully and well for 33 years (from Nov. 25, 1875, to Nov. 28, 1908). When he resigned the congregation called Rev. J. C. Reinertsen, who served till Nov. 28, 1911, when he resigned to accept a call from Duluth, Minn. The present pastor is Rev. Naghard Engh. He was born in Norway fifty-nine years ago, but came to this country when a child. He was educated at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and at the Theological Seminary of the Norwegian Synod, and also studied two years at the University of Christiania. He has a long and varied experience as a minister and is honored by all who know him, for his noble Christian character. He is married and has a large family.

In the year 1868 the first church was built, a frame structure, 40 by 30 feet, 16 feet high. In 1891 the church was remodeled and built over in the form of a cross, and enlarged to about double the original size. The church and cemetery are located on the southwest quarter of section 33, town of Bloomfield. The parsonage, located one-fourth mile from the church, was built in 1876. The building was remodeled and enlarged in 1909. Forty acres of good land goes with the buildings for free use by the pastor. The Bloomfield congregation is a member of the United Church.

Services are held in one church three Sundays each month. There is a Young People's Society, a Ladies' Aid Society and a church choir. Parochial school is held two or three months a year, religious instruction being given in the Norwegian language.

The total membership is 410 at the present time, voting members 100. Among the leading members are L. W. Nordgaarden, Halvor Olsen, N. O. Larson, N. A. Shaarburg, G. C. Gullickson, C. C. Christanson, J. C. Engeldstad, S. S. Dugstad, Ole Holte, J. Hillestad and J. J. Hanson.

The first couple married in Bloomfield and later members of the congregation were Peter O. Nadland and Sine Olson. This was in July, 1856. As there was no minister handy, the ceremony was performed by Robert Foster in Forestville. Of the hundreds of marriages since solemnized in the Bloomfield church not one has been broken up in the divorce court.

For various reasons twenty-two families left the congregation in 1894 and together with some outsiders founded a new congregation, built a church in the village of Ostrander and called Rev. N. J. Berg of the Hauges Synod, who is their pastor at the present time.—By O. P. Hadland.

The Mabel Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Congregation was organized by Rev. Peder Dreyer, in October, 1891, with thirty-five members. The church building was erected in 1890, and was dedicated the following year. Until 1893, the congregation had no settled pastor, but was served by neighboring pastors, among whom were Rev. Peder Dreyer, Rev. A. Wright and others. In 1893, Rev. O. K. Welum was called to have charge of the congregation, and was its settled pastor until he died, July 7, 1894. In October of the same year Rev. A. O. Langebough was called to be Rev. Welum's successor.

The Highland Prairie Norwegian Lutheran Congregation was organized

by the late Rt. Rev. V. Koren, who at that time resided at Washington Prairie, Iowa. His first visit was in the year 1855, and the congregation was then organized.

On account of the many other churches which he at that time served, it was impossible for him to take charge of the Highland Prairie congregation, so a call was extended to Rev. N. E. Jensen, who came from Norway in 1859, and preached his first sermon on July 25 the same year. He was installed by Rev. Koren. The services were to have been held in a large log house, but so many came that it was found necessary to hold the meeting in the open air. The service was held under some large oak trees near the place where the church later was erected. At this service eight children were baptized. The first child was christened Oia; he is at present storekeeper at Bradsberg, Fillmore County, Minn.

Rev. Jensen was an eloquent preacher and was much beloved by his parishioners. They built him a parsonage, which at that time was far ahead of anything of its kind in this neighborhood. It was a two-story brick building thirty by twenty-four feet. A farm of forty acres was also bought to be used by the pastor. This brick building is still being used as a parsonage, an addition being erected in 1892. The farm and the buildings on it as they stand now are valued at about \$6,000.00 and are owned by the three congregations: Highland Prairie, Elstad and Oak Ridge.

Rev. Jensen served the congregations for ten years, from 1859 to 1869, when he resigned and moved to Houston, Minn., where he died a short time later.

Highland Prairie and Elstad congregations began the erection of churches in 1865, but they were not completed before 1872, when they were dedicated. These houses of worship served as such until 1896, when Highland Prairie erected a new one, which was dedicated on July 14, 1896. It has a seating capacity of about 600. The Elstad congregation replaced her old church with a handsome large church dedicated in the summer of 1911. These two, together with the Oak Ridge church, are valued at \$20,000.

As is so often the case in all church work, the ladies take an active part, so it can be said of the ladies of these congregations. They have done much towards furthering the work. There are Ladies' Aid Societies in all the three congregations. The one on Highland Prairie was organized more than thirty years ago, and the leading spirit in it was for many years the pastor's faithful wife. The aim of the societies has been to work for the missions.

The Lutherans, although they recognize the many blessings of the public school, have always felt the need of the instruction of the youth in the Word of God, and as this could not be given in the public school, they have gladly borne the extra expense that the parochial school has necessitated. So the members of these churches have every summer set aside from one to three months for this work. During this period the children have received instruction in Luther's small catechism, in Bible history and in the reading and writing of the Norwegian language.

In the first Psalm we read: "Blessed is the man whose delight is in the Law of the Lord" and the promise

is added: "And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." The first settlers in this community came here, most of them very poor, but they had brought with them from their native home the fear of the Lord, and a love for his Word. They had no sooner settled when they arranged to have the good old gospel preached to them, and now the little log cabins have given place to modern homes with the many comforts, and poverty has in most cases been exchanged for wealth. One thing which is worthy of notice is the fact, that in these sixty years in a community numbering more than a thousand souls, there have been but three cases where men have been punished for crime committed.

Music has played no small part in the life of the Norwegians on Highland Prairie. As early as the seventies a male choir was organized, being instructed by Mrs. Magelssen. She also served for many years as the organist of the church, until two of her pupils, Marie Eliertson and Tilla Jahr, succeeded her.

The church choirs have here as in all other places had their ups and downs. They have at times had able leaders and their singing has ranked high. Among the leaders that deserve mention are: Oluf Glascoe, now traveling missionary of the United Lutheran Church, and Jens Magelssen, at present deacon of the Highland Prairie church. The present leader of the two choirs, Elstad and Highland prairie, is the assistant pastor, Rev. N. S. Magelssen, while the Oak Ridge choir is led by Halvor Lee. The Highland Prairie congregation installed a fine large pipe organ this summer at a cost of \$1,600.00. The organist is Selma Overland.

Highland Prairie Church has also a cornet band numbering about twenty-five young men. It was organized more than twenty years ago, the present leader being Rev. N. S. Magelssen. The Bratsberg Viking Band, as it is called, always adds a great deal to the entertainment of the congregation when it assembles at its many festivals in the beautiful grove near the church parsonage.

In the year 1853 delegates from about twenty-eight congregations, and seven pastors, met at East Koskonnong in order to discuss the advisability of forming a union between the Norwegian Lutheran churches in this country. At this meeting the synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America was organized. This church body numbers now more than one thousand congregations with over 400 pastors, and has about 150,000 members. It supports missions among the Indians, the Zulus of South Africa (this in connection with a missionary society in Norway), and the Esquimaux of Alaska, and this summer (1912) has decided to begin work in the Interior of China. But the greatest work in this line has been done among the Norwegians on the home mission field, more than seventy-five pastors being either wholly or partly supported in this work. The synod has also a large seamen's mission.

Two colleges, one at Decorah, Iowa, and the other at Fergus Falls, Minn., nine academies, one theological seminary, one normal school and one ladies' seminary are under the supervision of the synod.

The Highland Prairie and the Oak Ridge congregations are members of this synod and contribute to its many



missions and schools. The Elstad congregation also contributes to the synod, although not a member.

As stated above, Rev. Jensen, the first resident pastor, remained but ten years, and was then succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Kr. Magelssen. In 1909 he was given an assistant, this being his son, N. St. Magelssen, who was called from Lee, Ill., where he was serving as the Right Reverend Norby's assistant.—Prepared by Rev. Kr. Magelssen.

Rev. Kr. Magelssen was born in Aafjorden, Norway, April 27, 1839. In 1864 he emigrated to America and in the fall of the same year entered the Concordia Theological Seminary at St. Louis, Mo. In 1866 he was sent to New York city where he labored among his countrymen for a little more than half a year. He returned again to St. Louis and after graduating was ordained as pastor in Decora, Iowa, Dec. 9, 1866.

During the year 1867 he had charge of the Right Reverend H. A. Preus's congregations near Madison, Wisconsin, and the following year Rev. Magelssen returned to Norway where he was married to Sara Stocketh. October 27. A call had been extended to him from the congregations he is now serving. This he accepted and began as pastor in 1869. The call at this time comprised the following congregations: Rushford, Houston, Highland Prairie, Cedar Valley, Elstad, Whalan and Newburg.

Six children have been born to Rev. and Mrs. Magelssen. They are: Dorothea, married to U. S. Consul General G. Ble Ravndal, Constantinople, Turkey; Hans Gynther, pastor at La Crosse, Wisconsin; Wilhelm Christian, United States Consul at Melbourne, Australia; Ludvig Daa, grocer at Mitchell, South Dakota; Nils Stocketh, assistant pastor to his father; and Catharine, married to Rev. Finn Magelssen of Amherst, Wisconsin.

The North Prairie Norwegian Evangelical Congregation.—In 1857, Rev. N. E. Jensen held religious services in the house of Charles Anderson. In 1858, the North Prairie Lutheran Society was organized at the residence of Isaac Jackson n Arendahl. Knud Thorwaldson was chairman of the first board of trustees. The first clerk and treasurer was Isaac Jackson. Rev. N. E. Jensen served as pastor up to the year 1869, when the Rev. M. Magnus took charge, remaining until 1876, when Rev. J. Krohn came.

A church, 30 by 40 feet, cost \$2,500, was constructed in 1863. About the year 1874, a tower was built from the ground and equipped with a bell weighing about 1,000 pounds. The same year that the church was built, a lot was secured just south of it, containing ten acres, and upon this a parsonage was built at a cost, including lot, of about \$3,000. Afterwards thirty-three acres more land was bought of John Currie for the use of the pastor. This was adjoining the church lot which had been donated by Mr. Currie.

The Newburg Norwegian Lutheran Congregation was organized about the year 1856, by Rev. F. C. Clausen, of Spring Grove, the first to officiate here as the minister, although Rev. V. Koren had held services at the residence of Osten Golberg prior to this time. For about eight years Mr. Clausen kept up the services, usually at the house of Bjorn Olesen (Garnaas). In 1868, a frame church was completed, the congregation having been consoli-

dated with a like society in Hesper, Iowa, but a disagreement arising as to the location of a church edifice, the union was dissolved after continuing for three years, so that alone the congregation put up their house of worship. The prominent men in church matters were Iver Gulbrandson (Ellestad) and Ole B. (Garnaas). Rev. H. A. Stub was a prominent minister at this time. There was an effort made to transform the society into a Methodist one, but it was not accomplished. The congregation was afterwards in charge of Rev. Kr. Magelssen, of Highland Prairie. In 1880, he surrendered the charge to Rev. E. P. Jensen, of Spring Grove.

Norwegian Evangelical Church of Preston.—In 1855, meetings were held in Ole Wilson's house, and afterwards in other places, but after the erection of the Lutheran Church in Harmony, the people attended there. In more recent years a church was erected in Preston.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of York.—As early as 1855, meetings were held in the house of K. Olson; Rev. V. Koren coming from Iowa for that purpose. When the schoolhouse in district No. 33 was built, meetings were held there. The formal organization on November 24, 1864. The trustees were Knud Knudson and Ole Anderson. In 1872, a neat frame structure for church purposes was built on section 24 at a cost of \$1,500. Tobias Larson was installed as pastor August 8, 1865.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Harmony.—The society was organized in 1856, with ten members. The first minister was Rev. V. Koren, the second was Rev. Mr. Rasmussen, the third was Rev. Mr. Jensen, the fourth Rev. Tobias Larson. The meetings at first were held in the schoolhouse at Greenfield. The church was completed in 1867.

Highland Lutheran Evangelical Church.—In 1859 the society was organized. Before this time services had been held in private houses and schoolhouses. In 1870 Mr. Shattuck donated a lot and a neat little frame church 30x50 feet with a spire was built. Mr. Shay served as pastor several years and was succeeded by Rev. Wright who was pastor thirty-two years and celebrated with his congregation their fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the church in October, 1909. Several years after the church was built a fine bell was put in and in 1893 the church was enlarged to a seating capacity of about five hundred. Then in 1911 it was redecorated and seated with beautiful curved oak seats and lighted with gas. The present pastor is Rev. H. E. Rasmussen of Lanesboro.

Lanesboro Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church.—The first sermon preached here to this denomination was by the Rev. T. Larson, in 1869, in the basement of what was later called the Minnesota House. There were about 100 persons in attendance. Services were afterwards held irregularly in various places; at times in the schoolhouse and the Presbyterian church, until 1874. The organization was effected on February 2, 1874, at the Presbyterian church, with Rev. T. Larson as presiding officer, and E. Loveland as secretary, having at the commencement about thirty-five members. The first trustees were L. Nordby, P. A. Rein, Hans Jacobson, E. Grondland, Ole Tolsen and Christ. Olson. From the time of organizing

until November 17, 1879, Rev. E. Jaastad filled the pulpit. Another early pastor was Rev. Paul Gotaas.

The Whalan Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Congregation.—An organization of this church was effected in 1874, by Rev. Kr. Magelssen. The first trustees were: Ole Stenson, Jacob Olson and Andrew Anderson; clerk, Cornelius Nelson; treasurer, Peter Paulson; Mr. Magelssen continued to break the bread of the word to them until 1879, when Rev. Paul Gotaas took his place.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Carrolton.—The adherents to this faith in the southern part of the town used to go up to the north side during the earliest years of the settlement, but about 1859 they began to have meetings at the residences of G. Olson and T. K. Bell, and afterwards in the house of A. Embretsen, and in pleasant weather the meetings would be held in the grove, Rev. C. Clanson, of Spring Grove, officiating. After him came Rev. T. Larson and Rev. H. A. Preus. On November 20, 1865, a meeting was held for organization at the house of A. Embretson. Tobias Larson was elected chairman, and Ole Gulbrandson was appointed secretary. The trustees elected were: P. Jensen, T. Petersen, Ole Gulbrandson, A. Embretson, G. Olson and T. K. Bell. Meetings were continued in private houses, and in the schoolhouse till 1871, when a church was constructed in section 34. Rev. T. Larson was the first pastor; he was here over four years, and was succeeded by Rev. T. Gotaas.

The South Fork Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Preble.—This is the name of a society which came into existence in 1877, and the following year a church, 26 by 36 feet, was constructed. Rev. A. Wright, of Rushford, was an early pastor.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Rushford.—This congregation was organized at the schoolhouse October 14, 1861, and the following trustees were appointed: Stark T. Gjernes, Ole Baardsen and Henrik Henriksen. The first minister was N. E. Jensen. In 1866 a church was erected, 30 by 45 feet, which was used as a place of worship until 1881, when an addition 18 by 28 feet, was made, with a basement the same size, to be used as a school to impart religious instruction. Rev. Kr. Magelssen succeeded Mr. Jensen, and remained from about 1869 to 1873. After him came Rev. E. Jaastad.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church of Rushford was organized in connection with the Norwegian Augustana Synod, by Rev. A. Schele, on May 2, 1868, and as there was a Lutheran church in town the name "Second" was added. The question of slavery had agitated the church, and this was the anti-slavery wing. Eighteen families joined the new organization. Mr. Schele remained one year, when Rev. P. Asbjornsen came from Winona, and the schoolhouse was bought and arranged as a church. In 1871 Rev. A. Wright succeeded to the pastorate, and he is still the incumbent. The church was soon found to be too small, so it was disposed of, and a lot on Broadway secured, where a church 50 by 30 feet was erected in 1873. In the corner stone was deposited a bible, a Lutheran catechism, and a "Skandinaven." In the fall the house was ready for use, and the first service was the funeral of Haaken Arentsen, who had taken a

leading part in its construction. The legal incorporation was not effected until 1873.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Amherst was organized in the winter of 1872, the following being the first officers appointed: Trustees, John Jacobson, G. Mayland and Ole H. Oppegaard; treasurer and clerk, J. N. Johnson (Boxrud). The first pastor to hold service for this denomination was the Rev. T. Larson, of Greenfield. In 1877, the members decided to build an edifice in which to worship, and all feeling that the prosperity of the organization demanded it, they commenced the erection of a church worth about five or six thousand dollars, and completed it the same year. The lot for the church building was donated by Henry Onstine.

### THE FRIENDS.

The Friends' Church of Highland.—Highland had a quiet home revival in the winter of 1876-77 and a little society of English speaking people gathered, holding prayer meetings and Sunday school in private houses, having occasional preaching by Methodist, Congregational, and Friends at different periods. In 1886-87 the membership was transferred to the Hesper, Iowa, Friends church, and in 1889 was organized as a separate meeting at Highland, belonging to the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends. In 1892 a little church was built and E. G. Pearson, the first and only resident pastor, secured for two years. It was a flourishing little church until the removal of many of its members, and is still occupied by the few remaining. Pastors have since been supplied from Hesper, Iowa, Dr. Slack serving nine years, and Rev. H. C. Carter following and still continuing as pastor.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Fillmore County Sunday School Association.—This interdenominational association, a branch of the Minnesota Sunday School Association, is doing excellent work in stimulating interest in church work for the younger people. The officers are: President, Rev. Peter Grooters, Preston; vice-president, D. D. Ayer, Preston; secretary, Mrs. Julius Johnson, Preston; treasurer, Sarah Hahn, Preston. Department superintendents: Training of teachers, Mrs. J. F. Souders, Preston; temperance, A. V. Defor, Etna; elementary, Mrs. S. H. Stover, Preston; advanced, Alice Moore, Rushford; adult, Rev. Morris De M. Darrell, Chatfield; Mrs. George Woodruff, of Chatfield, is chairman of the entertainment committee.

The churches associated with the society are as follows, the name of the church being given first, then the location, then the name of the superintendent, then the name of the pastor, and lastly the pastor's address.

Preston District. Presbyterian, Preston, William Williams, Rev. J. E. Darling, Preston; Methodist, Preston, G. W. Wetherill, Rev. H. I. Pharo, Preston; Evangelical, Preston, Isaac Vickerman, Rev. H. Schmidt, Preston; Presbyterian, Rushford, W. W. Cox, Rev. George Stanley, Rushford; Episcopal, Rushford, H. M. Smith, Rev. W. H. Pond, Rushford; Presbyterian, Lanesboro, Mrs. H. A. Turner, Rev. R. L. Jones, Canton; Methodist, Lanesboro, O. M. Habberstad, Rev.



William Wooley, Lanesboro; Methodist, Harmony, Mrs. A. E. Barnes, Rev. McKelvey, Harmony; Presbyterian, Canton, May Donald, Rev. R. L. Jones, Canton; Methodist, Canton, Edmund Webster, Rev. William Wooley, Lanesboro; Methodist, Mabel, R. J. Stroud, Rev. W. W. Smith, Mabel; Norwegian Lutheran, Mabel, E. G. Stensland, Rev. W. Rasmussen, Mabel; Friends, Highland, G. W. Shattuck, Rev. H. C. Carter, Hesper, Iowa.

Spring Valley District, Methodist, Spring Valley, Mrs. C. H. Smith, Rev. T. A. Jones, Spring Valley; Baptist, Spring Valley, D. E. Green, Rev. O. C. Teachout, Spring Valley; Congregational, Spring Valley, John W. Barber, Rev. Alex. Cutler, Spring Valley; United Brethren, Spring Valley, no report; Norwegian Lutheran, Spring Valley, M. E. Molstad, Rev. N. A. Giere, Spring Valley; Etna Union, Etna, A. V. DeFor, Rev. T. A. Jones, Spring Valley; Evangelical, Cherry

Grove, D. Nagel, Rev. L. Steeley, Ostrander; Church of the Brethren, Greenleaf, Jacob Burkholder, Rev. L. F. Souders, Preston; Reformed, Greenleaf, Rev. Peter Grooters, Rev. Peter Grooters, Preston; Estey Schoolhouse, near Spring Valley, Mrs. S. K. Warren, Rev. Talley, Racine; Bethel Evangelical, Sumner Center, no report; Kedron, Sumner, no superintendent, Rev. G. Stadsfield, Spring Valley; Methodist, Fillmore, no report; Wykoff Sunday school, Wykoff, Mrs. D. J. Pickett, no pastor.

Formerly in Chatfield District, Welsh Presbyterian, Bristol, R. L. Jones, Rev. H. F. Williams, Lime Springs, Iowa; Carson Methodist Episcopal, Carson schoolhouse, William S. Carson, no pastor; Presbyterian, Washington, R. G. Anderson, Dr. W. R. Reynolds, Chatfield; Methodist, Fountain, Rev. F. A. Foster, Rev. F. A. Foster, Fountain.

## APPENDIX IV

## REPRESENTATIVE FRATERNITIES

Spring Valley Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M.—Canton Lodge No. 194, A. F. & A. M.—Mystic Star Chapter, No. 93, O. E. S.—Underwood Post, No. 122, G. A. R.—E. L. Kenney Post, No. 84, G. A. R.—Surprise Camp, No. 133, Royal Neighbors—Spring Valley Camp, No. 245, Royal Neighbors—Centennial Lodge, No. 56, I. O. O. F.—Centennial Rebekah Lodge, No. 46, I. O. O. F.—Preston Camp, No. 276, M. W. A.—Fountain Camp, No. 3085, M. W. A.—Chatfield Lodge, No. 89, A. O. U. W.—Spring Valley Council, No. 1636, Royal Arcanum—Fillmore County Business Men's Association—Fillmore County Poultry Association—Burdick Post, No. 3, G. A. R.—North Star Chapter, No. 11, R. A. M.

While not so old as the churches and the schools, the fraternities of Fillmore county have taken a prominent share in its upbuilding. The Masons have flourished from the earliest times, and there are also several venerable Odd Fellows' Lodge. The Modern Woodmen of America, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen are also among the older fraternities to establish local lodges in this county. At one time every village, and many schoolhouses, had their lodges of Good Templars. The Grange also at one time had a lodge in every hamlet.

An effort has been made by the publishers of this work to secure the history of some of the representative lodges. Information in many cases has been refused, hence many of the lodges do not appear in this chapter. Those which do appear are representative fraternities, and from the reading of their history may be gathered a general idea of the growth, development and influence of the fraternal spirit in this county.

**Spring Valley Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M.**—The origin of Masonry is shrouded in the mists of legends, speculations, and the chaos of conflicting forces; which obscure events were enacted in a far off age of tyranny and oppression. Whether it owes its origin to the connect of kings or to a combination of the common people must forever remain an unsolved mystery. But that its purposes were kindly there can be no question. The tradition that the building of King Solomon's temple was accomplished by the co-operation of two kings and a famous artisan illustrates the underlying principles of Masonry—that of absolute equality among its members. Masonry is one of the oldest organizations among men to stand for absolute equality among its members. Masonry includes in its membership many of most of the world's great leaders, and more than two million of the choice men of the nations on the earth.

What is Masonry doing for these men, or what has it done for men in the past? The chief object of Masonry is the improvement of the manhood of its members, and through them the world in general.

The fundamental principles of Masonry are these: Belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, the practice of strict morality and the inculcation of universal benevolence.

The early pioneers having these principles instilled within themselves realized the necessity of letting them shine forth among their fellow laborers. They met from time to time

to devise ways and means whereby a Lodge of Masons could be started and the uninitiated made to imitate the example of that celebrated artist whom they at one time imitated.

In 1866, fifteen years after the first white man settled in Spring Valley, eleven Masons made application to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge for a dispensation to establish a lodge and make Masons. These men were E. J. Kingsberry, James D. Farmer, Robert C. McCord, Calvin W. Taylor, Senior M. Hudson, James G. Teeter, Isaac Forkner, W. Mordoff, George L. Walker, John Q. Farmer and Sylvester Treat. They are remembered as the charter members of Spring Valley Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M.

The following dispensation was granted to the brothers: "Sit Lux, Et Lux Fuit." C. W. Nash, grand master; W. S. Rigby, deputy grand master; R. Stewart, grand senior warden; S. R. Murrill, grand junior warden. We, the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, of Minnesota, in ample form assembled, according to the Old York constitutions, regularly and solemnly established under the auspices of Prince Edwin, at the City of York, in Great Britain, in the year of Masonry 4926, viz.: The Most Worshipful Charles W. Nash, grand master; The Right Worshipful W. S. Rigby, deputy grand master; The Right Worshipful Robert Stewart, grand senior warden; The Right Worshipful S. R. Murrell, grand junior warden; do, by these presents appoint, authorize and empower our worthy brother, E. J. Kingsberry, to be the master; our worthy brother, J. D. Farmer, to be the senior warden, and our worthy brother, Robert C. McCord to be the junior warden of a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, to be, by virtue hereof, constituted, formed and held in Spring Valley, Fillmore county, Minnesota, which lodge shall be distinguished by the name or style of Spring Valley Lodge No. 58, and the said master and wardens, and their successors in office, are hereby respectively authorized and directed, by and with the consent and assistance of a majority of the members of the said lodge, duly to be summoned and present upon such occasions, to elect and install the officers of the said lodge, as vacancies happen, in manner and form as is, or may be, prescribed by the constitution of this Grand Lodge; and further, the said lodge is hereby invested with full power and authority to assemble upon proper and lawful occasions, to make

Masons, and to admit members, as also to do and perform all and every such acts and things appertaining to the craft as have been, and ought to be done, for the honor and advantage thereof; conforming in all their proceedings to the constitution of this Grand Lodge, otherwise this warrant and the powers thereby granted, to cease and be of no further effect. Given under our hands and the seal of our Grand Lodge, at the city of St. Paul, in the United States of America, this twenty-third day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and in the year of Masonry five thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.—Wm. J. Combs, grand secretary."

The lodge was duly organized and in January, 1867, began the work of making Masons in due and ancient form. Nelson B. Smith was the first Mason made by the new lodge. From January 18, 1867, to and including September 27, 1867, fifteen of our male citizens were raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Following are the names: T. E. Loop, John H. Bennett, M. C. Gates, W. W. Williams, Otto Stevens, B. F. Farmer, S. A. Hunt, George G. Wilder, S. J. Sanborn, E. M. Brown, J. A. Stout, J. E. Whitman, Lemuel C. Stout, Thomas J. Stevens.

From 1867 to 1910 the lodge has had a steady and substantial growth.

From 1910 to this writing, July, 1912, the growth has been phenomenal, the result of wise and serious truths which were impressed upon the minds of the early settlers.

The charter of this lodge of Masons was granted one year after the dispensation. The officers working under the charter were: E. J. Kingsberry, worshipful master; James D. Farmer, senior warden, and S. A. Hunt, junior warden. This charter, more precious to Masons than the Golden Fleece, or Roman Eagle, or the Star and Garter, or "the oil that ran down the beard, even Aaron's beard," has never been in jeopardy, and no suspicion ever attached to it.

E. J. Kingsberry was the first representative to the Grand Lodge—November, 1867.

The first and third Fridays of each month were the dates set apart by the lodge for the time of meeting. The brothers continued to meet on these dates until at a regular communication held on October 5, 1869, the time was changed to the first and third Tuesdays, and so remains to this day.

The lodge was organized in an old mill across the creek and for several years regular meetings were held there. It was not an ideal place in which to hold Masonic Lodge, as the hall was used for church and other purposes. In December, 1870, W. L. Kellogg, N. B. Smith and A. M. Adler were appointed a committee to interview L. Griswold and see what arrangements can be made as to the erection of a hall. This committee reported at the next regular meeting that Mr. Griswold would build a hall 20x40 feet with a preparation room 12x20 feet. Nothing came to a head, however, for in February, 1871, the Masons were still holding meetings in the mill, and B. F. Farmer, the worshipful master, was authorized to confer with a Mr. Lower, and, if possible, to make a contract with him to erect a hall for the use of the Masons. The lodge voted to raise, by direct tax upon the members, \$100 for the rent of same, and two dozen chairs were or-

dered purchased to be used in the new hall. The matter fell through, however, and in March, 1871, the lodge leased the hall to the Good Templars for \$96, the Masons to furnish the light and wood; and the committee which had the matter in charge from December, 1870, to this time, was discharged.

On the fifteenth of August, 1871, Robert Morris, so well known in Masonic Circles, was engaged to give four lectures; the first to be free and an admission fee of twenty-five cents to be charged for the other lectures. The fruit of these lectures must have been all that was anticipated, for during the next next twelve months, thirteen Masons were made in due and ancient form.

In December, 1871, the lodge had its first open installation to which the wives and daughters of the Masons were invited. January 9, 1872, the lodge gave a grand ball and festival to procure funds that a carpet might be purchased for the hall. After all expenses had been paid the committee which had the affair in charge reported they had the sum of one dollar toward the purchase of the carpet.

In February, 1872, a committee of Odd Fellows asked permission to use the hall, "provided a lodge of Odd Fellows should be organized."

At this meeting the deacons and stewards were bothered with their rods, and on March 26, the junior deacon was "instructed to go to the harness shop and procure such fixtures as shall be necessary to keep the rods erect."

On May 21, 1872, a resolution was passed creating a committee consisting of the three principal officers of the lodge "to procure such needed and necessary furniture for the lodge room, payment for which proper orders shall be drawn upon the treasurer to be paid by him out of the lodge fund, not otherwise appropriated, provided that such furniture should cost not less than \$25 nor more than \$50."

February 4, 1873, the lodge had its first committee on jurisprudence, and by-laws were adopted and a boundary line established.

March 4, 1873, the Good Templars disbanded, and the furniture used by this lodge was turned over to the Masons for rent "so far as it should go."

January 5, 1875, the lodge voted not to give its consent for a lodge of Masons to be organized at Grand Meadow.

On January 18, 1876, a contract was made with E. W. Allard for the rent of the upper story of the People's Store on Broadway, at a rental of \$100 a year. This room, 22x20 feet, including a preparation room to be furnished, lighted and heated by the Masons. The roof was sloping on the north and south sides and when the Masons stood up they stepped down from the raised platform and moved to the center of the hall. When seated, the room was "large enough."

This was the home of the Masonic Lodge until the Masons made a contract for the upper story of the Parson Store block. This contract was made on December 8, 1874. It made a large and commodious room, the only objection being the lodge room proper was north and south, rather than east and west. The room, however, was so large and nearly square that the uninitiated were none the

wiser. The hall was handsomely finished at a cost of \$145.07, and sub-let to the Odd Fellows and Temple of Honor. The funds to furnish the hall were obtained by an entertainment given by the McFarland Theatre Company, the Spring Valley Cornet Band and Varney & Stacy's Concert Company. Ninety dollars was realized from the entertainment after all expenses had been paid.

February 19, 1878, a petition signed by twenty-eight Masons living in Wykoff and vicinity was presented, asking permission of this lodge to organize a lodge of Masons at Wykoff. Consent was not given.

In September, 1889, during the administration of worshipful Master E. G. H. Adams, the lodge left the Parson Block and rented for a term of years the entire second story of the bank building being erected on Broadway and Courtland street by Strong, Farmer & Edwards, and permission given the Grand Army of the Republic and Woman's Relief Corps to occupy the hall. The contracts and arrangements made at that time remain to this day. Beside the lodge room proper there is a banquet hall, preparation and ante-rooms. The walls and ceiling are covered with imported paper and the rooms lighted by electricity. The lodge room is situated due east and west, and the furnishings inventoried at \$900.

At this writing, July 1, 1912, there are 160 Masons in good standing. The present officers are: Dr. W. N. Kendrick, W. M.; R. E. Shepherd, S. W.; A. G. Spies, J. W.; Roy Viall, treasurer; E. G. H. Adams, secretary; Lyle Hamlin, S. D.; Fay B. Viall, J. D.; Rev. A. E. Cutler, chaplain; H. H. Steffens and Charles W. Hendricks, stewards; E. C. Gale, tyler. The lodge has a full treasury, although it has been liberal in its contributions to charity.

Arrangements are being made at this time for a chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and in September it is expected the organization will be completed. A petition signed by eighteen Royal Arch Masons and sixty-five Master Masons who wish to take the degrees, has been sent to the grand chapter, the effort to secure the chapter being engineered by the present worshipful master, Dr. W. N. Kendrick, to whom all members of the lodge, from the youngest entered apprentice who stands in the northeast corner of the lodge, to the oldest member of the lodge look for Masonic wisdom.

A commandery of Knights Templar will naturally follow the chapter, then Spring Valley Lodge No. 58, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons will have accomplished the object the charter members had in view when the lodge was organized in 1866.

B. F. Farmer from his initiation in March, 1867, rose to the thirty-third degree of Masonry, and at one time was the Most Eminent Commander of Knights Templar of the state.

For the first time in the history of the lodge it has an officer in Grand Lodge, Dr. W. N. Kendrick, who was made Grand Senior Steward at the last Grand Lodge communication, January, 1912.

June 6, 1911, Grand Lodge was held in Spring Valley Lodge, the occasion being the laying of the corner stone of the new high school building. It was a perfect June day and a large assemblage of people gathered to wit-

ness the ceremony. A banquet in the Opera House followed the exercises. In the evening regular lodge was held, there being work in the third degree of Masonry.

The work in this lodge ranks high and perfect discipline prevails. So perfect is its work that it attracts the attention of the state custodians of the work, and they delight to pay us an occasional visit and leave with us good counsel—counsel that is timely and valuable.

I close this history of Spring Valley Lodge No. 58 by saying another red letter day awaits us. The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, Owen Morris, of St. Paul, will make this lodge a visit early in the fall, being one of the few lodges in the state he will visit during his term of office.—By E. G. H. Adams, secretary, Spring Valley Lodge No. 58. A. F. & A. M. (Written July 1, 1912.)

The principal officers of the lodge are here named, the worshipful master, the senior warden and the junior warden being given in the order named under each date.

1867—E. J. Kingsberry, J. D. Farmer, R. C. McCord. 1868—E. J. Kingsberry, J. D. Farmer, S. A. Hunt. 1869—J. D. Farmer, M. W. Williams, B. F. Farmer. 1870—B. F. Farmer, S. C. Lobdell, N. B. Smith. 1871—B. F. Farmer, S. C. Lobdell, W. L. Kellogg. 1872—S. C. Lobdell, R. L. Moore, W. C. Zimmerman. 1873—B. F. Farmer, R. L. Moore, J. L. Williams. 1874—B. F. Farmer, R. L. Moore, A. P. Flower. 1875—R. L. Moore, R. D. Smith, E. C. Gale. 1876—J. D. Farmer, B. F. Farmer, C. W. Taylor. 1877—B. F. Farmer, S. C. Lobdell, G. M. Warren. 1878—J. D. Farmer, N. R. Booth, Norman Brass. 1879—N. R. Booth, Norman Brass, Henry Cobb. 1880—N. R. Booth, E. D. Dunlap, Thad Wilkins. 1881—G. M. Warren, Thad Wilkins, O. F. Rexford. 1882—G. M. Warren, Thad Wilkins, E. D. Dunlap. 1883—B. F. Farmer, Thad Wilkins, E. G. H. Adams. 1884—B. F. Farmer, J. H. Bonesteel, H. J. Anderson. 1885—J. H. Bonesteel, C. H. Wagner, H. J. Anderson. 1886—J. H. Bonesteel, H. J. Anderson, E. M. Brown. 1887—B. F. Farmer, J. A. Stevens, Harry Mortimer. 1888—B. F. Farmer, J. A. Stevens, E. G. H. Adams. 1889—E. G. H. Adams, James O. Pierce, Dr. J. R. Johnson. 1890—E. G. H. Adams, James O. Pierce, A. J. Knight. 1891—B. F. Farmer, James O. Pierce, T. O. Kilburn. 1892—E. G. H. Adams, T. O. Kilburn, C. W. Nutting. 1893—T. O. Kilburn, W. L. Norton, Roy Viall. 1894—T. O. Kilburn, W. L. Horton, Roy Viall. 1895—W. L. Horton, F. J. Harris, Roy Viall. 1896—B. F. Farmer, R. L. Moore, W. D. Hart. 1897—B. F. Farmer, W. D. Hart, C. A. Paul. 1898—F. J. Harris, W. D. Hart, C. A. Paul. 1899—T. O. Kilburn, Roy Viall, F. A. Baker. 1900—B. F. Farmer, Roy Viall, F. A. Baker. 1901—B. F. Farmer, Roy Viall, H. E. Leach. 1902—Roy Viall, H. E. Leach, Kerry Conley. 1903—Roy Viall, H. E. Leach, Kerry Conley. 1904—G. M. Warren, Burdett Thayer, C. E. Lawrence. 1905—G. M. Warren, Burdett Thayer, C. E. Lawrence. 1906—Burdett Thayer, F. L. Bauer, C. E. Lawrence. 1907—H. E. Leach, R. J. Parker, Dr. W. N. Kendrick. 1908—H. E. Leach, E. G. Washburn, Dr. W. N. Kendrick. 1909—E. G. Washburn, Dr. W. N. Kendrick, Dr. Geo. McGillivray. 1910—E. G. Washburn, Dr. W. N. Kendrick, Dr. George McGillivray. 1911—Dr. W. N.

Kendrick, R. E. Shephard, A. G. Spies. 1912—Dr. W. N. Kendrick, R. E. Shephard, A. G. Spies.

The deceased members are: E. J. Kingsberry, James D. Farmer, Robert C. McCord, Calvin W. Taylor, Senior M. Hudson, James G. Teeter, Isaac Forkner, W. Mordoff, George L. Walker, John Q. Farmer, Sylvester Treat, Nelson B. Smith, T. E. Loop, John H. Bennett, W. W. Williams, Otto Stevens, B. F. Farmer, S. A. Hunt, George G. Wilder, J. A. Stout, William Loucks, A. M. Alden, S. R. Rogers, T. L. Gould, C. A. Whited, Milton J. Vail, David Higbee, J. L. Chandler, James A. Smith, R. L. Moore, G. W. Gregory, L. M. Ashley, Isaac W. Tower, J. L. Williams, W. F. Jerome, A. P. Flower, Thos. A. Douglas, N. M. Lewis, C. N. Bostwick, S. S. Bacon, Geo. C. Weed, Geo. W. Lawton, John Greyner, O. A. Foote, O. F. Rexford, Abraham Line, Henry Cobb, Abel Drew, N. R. Booth, Norman Brass, Edwin Dunlap, W. A. VanLoan, H. E. Hartman, M. F. Vanney, Elden Cady, Arlow Howe, Francis Rafferty, C. M. Horn, Marvin A. Green, L. K. Patchin, B. F. Wood, F. M. Miller, B. F. Langworthy, J. E. Nutting, T. O. Kilburn, Colonel Payne, E. W. Rexford, N. W. Kingsley, C. M. Clark, H. F. Miller, J. R. Johnson, Harry Mortimer, L. P. Hann, Albert Plummer, Fred B. Winslow, T. R. Mears, W. L. Horton, R. H. Stockman, E. D. Hammer, L. R. Lloyd, George Harris, W. H. Cusick, Geo. W. Horton, John Charles Evans, Canton Lodge, No. 194, A. F. & A. M.—On June 9, 1890, Canton Lodge started to work under dispensation, and on January 15, 1891, the lodge was granted a charter by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, A. F. & A. M., the charter being signed by Jacob A. Keister, grand master; Thos. Montgomery, grand secretary. The charter members were: Henry H. Haskins, Ole A. Maland, Sidney Boyd, Van Buren J. Beach, C. Abbott, Richard N. Vail, Ira Hubble, D. A. Mosher, D. B. Norton, A. Curtis Vail, Wesley Willford, John Manuel, C. Henry Marotz, John Milne, Frank R. Miles, W. Henry Travis, K. H. Knudson, Henry Hurd Scott.

The first lodge officers were: Dr. Henry H. Haskins, W. M.; Ole A. Maland, S. W.; Sidney Boyd, J. W.; Van Buren J. Beach, Treas.; C. Abbott, Secy.; These together with minor officers began work in due and ancient form, adhering closely to the landmarks of the order, and the results were growth numerically and financially.

On Dec. 25, 1899, the lodge lost its property by fire, and while the loss was severely felt, the craft at once took square and compass in hand, put on their work aprons and proceeded to lay their plans on the trestleboard—for a new lodge home. The Masonic Building in Canton was "raised" in 1900, and is a credit to fraternity as well as the town. The building is 26x80, good height of ceilings on both floors and is modern in every respect, dining hall, etc. The furniture, regalia and paraphernalia is of the best and the members have a temple they may well be proud of. The membership at this time is about 100 and there is considerable labor ahead in the way of conferring degrees. The regular meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday nights of each month. The present officers are: Master Mason, G. W. Willford; senior warden, Ray Vail; junior warden,

Bert Westgate; treasurer, D. B. Norton; secretary, J. A. Fife.

Mystic Star Chapter, No. 93, O. E. S., of Rushford, Minnesota, was organized Dec. 7, 1895. The charter was granted May 14, 1896, and formally presented to the chapter June 19, 1896. The charter members numbered thirty-three: G. W. Rockwell, Jessie Dauchy, Sadie Hopkins, Mrs. Helen Colburn, Mrs. Stena Pederson, Mrs. Theresa Sykes, Mrs. Emeline Dauchy, W. Frank Drake, Margaret Stage, Mrs. Ellen Wilmarth, Mrs. Martha Gore, Neis H. Toisted, John McLeod, Mrs. Mary McLeod, Josie Olson, Christie McLeod, Florence Tyler, Emma Crampton, Mrs. Louise Eldred, Katharine McLeod, Mrs. Mary Rockwell, Mrs. Calista Carpenter, Mrs. Sarah Grover, Mrs. Sarah Stage, Mrs. Mary McGregor, Lizzie Currie, Chas. W. Gore, Wm. Stage, Chas. E. Wilmarth, Mrs. Esther Currie, Mrs. Sophronia Streater, Mrs. Frances Kirkpatrick, Minnie Rockwell.

The officers of the first meeting and while the chapter was under dispensations from Dec. 7, 1895, to June 19, 1896, were: Worthy matron, Christie McLeod; worthy patron, G. W. Rockwell; associate matron, Mrs. Louise Eldred; conductress, Katharine McLeod; associate conductress, Lizzie Currie; secretary, Jessie Dauchy; treasurer, Emma Crampton; Adah, Minnie Rockwell; Ruth, Mrs. Frances Kirkpatrick; Esther, Mrs. Florence Tyler; Martha, Mrs. Theresa Sykes; Electa, Mrs. Stena Pederson; warder, Josie Olson; sentinel, W. Frank Drake.

The worthy matrons have been: Christie McLeod (U. D.), Mrs. Louise Eldred, Mrs. Ellen Wilmarth, Mrs. Jessie Knutson, Mrs. Janet Randall, Mrs. Minnie Smith, Mrs. Antoinette Robertson, Mrs. May Rockwell, Mrs. Antoinette Robertson, Mrs. Minnie Smith.

The secretaries have been: Jessie Dauchy and Emma Crampton.

The present officers are: Worthy matron, Mrs. Minnie Smith; worthy patron, John McLeod, associate matron, Mrs. Ethel Abramson; secretary, Emma Crampton; treasurer, Mrs. Lucy Parish; conductress, Clara Sundby; associate conductress, Estelle Toisted; Adah, Mrs. Mae Hanson; Ruth, Mrs. Antoinette Robertson; Esther, Mrs. Annette Pederson; Martha, Mrs. May Rockwell; Electa, Mrs. Emma Olson; warder, Mrs. Sophronia Streater; sentinel, L. L. Streater; chaplain, Mrs. Betsey Robertson; marshal, Lola Kirkpatrick; organist, Mrs. Mayme Berg.

Underwood Post No. 122 G. A. R., Department of Minnesota, was organized in courthouse in Preston, Minn., Sept. 5, 1884. Commander W. G. Banks, G. R. Shipton, John Dain and other members of Boler Post No. 16 G. A. R., of Fillmore, were present for the purpose of organizing and mustering the post. On motion the post was duly organized and mustered in; thirty charter members being present and obligated. On motion the post was named Underwood Post in honor of Joel Underwood of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, who was killed at the second battle of Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 15, 1864.

The following were charter members of the post: George W. Hard, A., Sixth Minn. Infantry; Charles Webb, H., Third N. Y. Providence Cavalry; L. H. Beers, B., One Hundred and One Penn. Infantry; Edward Stevens, F., Fourth Artillery Regular Army; Henry Jones, B., Sixtieth Ohio In-

fantry; W. K. Read, Second Minn. Light Artillery; J. B. Jaquish, K., Two Hundred and Seventh Penn. Infantry; S. S. McKlinney, L., Eleventh Minn. Infantry; Joseph Gartner, D., First Minn. Heavy Artillery; James Kirwin, G., Fifth Minn. Infantry; A. Barnes, B., First Mich. Engineers & Mechanics; Henry S. Bassett, K., Sixth Minn. Infantry; Jeremiah Shook, C., First Minn. Heavy Artillery; D. J. Brightbill, G., One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Penn. Infantry; Andrew Levy, B., One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Ill. Infantry; Jerome Utley, B., Second Minn. Infantry; Frank Eagle, A., Second Minn. Cavalry; Charles Schultz, E., Seventh Minn. Infantry; Martin Ream, H., First Heavy Artillery; E. V. Farrington, L., Eleventh Minn. Infantry; Fred Young, A., Second Minn. Infantry; Garnet Workman, B., Ninth Minn. Infantry; John Kirwin, H., Third N. H. Infantry; Geo. Ibach, B., Twelfth Iowa Infantry; Calvin Barnes, A., Michigan Guards; Giles A. Baker, A., Second Minn. Infantry; Thos. Ryan, C., Third Minn. Infantry; W. W. Foot, L., First Iowa Cavalry; Adam Frey; Theron H. Morgan, A., Seventy-Fourth Ill. Infantry.

The Post Descriptive Book shows that the following named comrades have joined the post since it was organized: Ole P. Allen, company and regiment not given; John Ingbreton, L., Eleventh Minn. Infantry; Howard V. Boice, E., Seventh Minn. Infantry; Aslak Larson, B., Twelfth Iowa Infantry; George Rappe, F., First Minn. Mounted Rangers; William Rappe, H., Minn. Heavy Artillery; Cyrus N. McMurphy, K., Sixth Minn. Infantry; Frank F. Fraser, A., Brackets Battalion; John H. Ham, D., First Minn. Heavy Artillery; Richard M. Winsor, C., Seventh R. I. Infantry; Jacob Weybright, K., Eighth Calif. Infantry; Sampel Taylor, Brackets Battalion (Minn.); Edward F. Nehrwood, B., Fifth Minn. Infantry; Charles H. Brightman, F., First Minn. Cavalry; Garret Vander Bee, A., Third Wis. Infantry; L. S. St. John, L., Eleventh Minn. Infantry; Henry Coll, C., Third Minn. Infantry; Joseph Galbraith, Brackets Battalion; Alonzo E. Wheeler, M., Tenth N. Y. Heavy Artillery; W. H. Renslow, A., Second Minn. Infantry; Garrett Ramakor, A., Thirty-Second Wisconsin Infantry; Henry B. Boyd, H., One Hundred and Forty-Third Ohio National Guard; Wm. McGowan, C., Third Minn. Infantry; Moritz F. Thieme, company and regiment not given; Charles D. Eddy, F., Minn. Mounted Rangers; John. H. Mensink, H., Second Minn. Infantry; Philo. H. Pickett, Second Minn. Battery; Maxon L. Potter, E., Seventh Minn. Infantry; Edward Coffey, B., Third Minn. Infantry; Gibson Simpkins, C., Thirty-Fifth Wis. Infantry; John Carnagie, L., Eleventh Minn. Infantry; Louis Kimball, C., Third Minn. Infantry; Edwin M. Stork, E., Seventh Minn. Infantry; Wm. Lenz, L., First Minn. Mounted Rangers; F. H. Day, L., Eleventh Minn. Infantry; Robert Dumond, Second Minn. Light Artillery; Charles S. Fifield, A., One Hundred and Fifty-Fifth, Indiana Infantry; Stephen E. Ford, E., Seventh Minn. Infantry; Homer C. Pooler, F., Third Iowa Infantry; J. L. Brown, I., Second Minn. Sharp Shooters; M. Dumphy, D., Thirty-First Wis. Infantry; Martin Ralph, A., One Hundred and Sixth N. Y. Infantry; John C. Smith, K., Sixth Minn. Infantry; Gottlieb Busse, A., Second Minn. Cav-

alry; Thomas Rich, C., One Hundred and Sixth N. Y. Infantry; George McMaster, D., First Minn. Heavy Artillery; Peter M. Franklin, B., First Minn. Heavy Artillery; John J. Johnson, D., First Minn. Heavy Artillery; Henry H. Haskins, E., Forty-Ninth Wis. Infantry; J. Robert Nelson, E., One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Ohio Infantry; W. B. Hutchinson, B., Fifth Minn. Infantry; Alanson C. Vail, B., Nineteenth Wis. Infantry; Leonides Woodle, First Minn. Light Battery; Asa S. Seelye, B., Nineteenth Wis. Infantry; John Garletz, B.; Michael C. Clancy, A., Sixty-Ninth N. Y. Infantry; Charles N. Palne, B., First Wis. Cavalry; Wm. T. Stevens, A., Second Minn. Cavalry; Alfred Bowman, A., Second Minn. Cavalry; Thomas Gordon, First Minn. Light Battery; J. H. McDonald, A., First Minn. Light Battery; Elansing G. Hicks, C., One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth N. Y. Infantry; Richard Duxbury, Second Minn. Light Artillery; F. C. Schmidt, H., Thirty-Sixth Ill. Infantry; Aaron H. Dayton, E., Seventh Minn. Infantry; Henry M. Seely, A., Second Minn. Cavalry; Bostwick F. Parker, G., Second Ohio Heavy Artillery; Richard W. Rockwell, F., Twenty-First N. Y. Infantry; Oscar M. Billings, C., One Hundred and Eleventh N. Y. Infantry; John Gaffny, G., Forty-Sixth Wis. Infantry; Perry Engle, C., Third Maryland Infantry; Marvin T. Grattan, U. S. S. Olchita (Navy); George McKay, C., Third Minn. Infantry; B. F. Cummings, D., First Vermont Cavalry; Wm. Pooler, H., Eighth Wis. Infantry; Wm. B. Allen, E., Seventh Minn. Infantry. Total membership of post since its organization, 108. Present membership of post (Jan 1, 1912), 31.

The following comrades have served as commanders of the post: Henry S. Bassett, 1884; E. V. Farrington, 1885 to 1895; George W. Hard, 1896; E. V. Farrington, 1897 to 1901; Jerome Utley, 1902 to 1903; E. V. Farrington, 1904; W. K. Read, 1905; Geo. W. Hard, 1906 to 1909; Henry Jones, 1910 to 1912.

List of adjutants with length of service: Geo. W. Hard, 1884 to 1895; W. K. Read, 1896 to 1901; Jerome Utley, 1905; W. K. Read, 1906 to 1911; Wm. Pooler, 1912.

The old veterans in line at the first observance of Memorial Day, in Preston, May 30, 1887, were: J. Gartner, John Kirvin, G. Vander Bie, W. W. Foote, W. K. Read, E. Coffey, A. Frey, C. H. Brightman, Charles Webb, L. H. Beers, E. V. Farrington, Thomas Ryan, William Rappe, G. W. Hard, H. S. Bassett, H. B. Boyd, D. J. Brightbill, J. Utley, George Ibach, J. Shook, F. Young, C. Barnes, Charles Schultz, C. N. Murphy, A. Leery, F. F. Fraser, J. Weybright, G. Workman, H. Boyce, George Rappe, G. Baker, A. Larson, J. B. Jaquish, Dr. H. Jones, W. S. Henry, O. V. Capron, O. Duschee, A. W. Patterson, B. Harmon, Thomas Thorp, J. J. McCauley, P. Casey, H. Christopherson, M. Hanson, S. Gilbert, M. Jacobson, D. Ryan, A. Blair and S. L. Nelson.

E. L. Kenney Post, No. 84, G. A. R. Department of Minnesota, was named from Edward L. Kenney. Edward L. Kenney, enlisted as a corporal June 26, 1861, was promoted to sergeant major, and on Oct. 22, 1862, was made second lieutenant, and on Dec. 25, was promoted to first lieutenant, and was promoted as captain Sept. 14, 1864, and discharged with the regi-

ment July 14, 1865. E. L. Kenney received special mention in official reports for gallant and meritorious conduct in action, and belonged to a regiment that never showed its backs to the enemy.

The post was organized March 27, 1884. The charter members were: John T. Hart, Wm. H. Batterson, A. F. Coffin, John T. Murphey, David Savage, Caleb Elphee, Curtis E. Burk, Lester Welch, C. A. Prouty, G. C. Fisher, A. V. Jennings, Alonzo Kingsley, Gilbert Messer, J. M. Higley, D. A. Sherwood, Miles B. Jones, Levi Ober, David Bernard, Wm. F. Silsbee, M. W. Allen, J. R. Jones, R. W. Twitchell and George Andrus.

The first officers were: John R. Jones, commander; Levi Ober, S. V. —, David Savage, J. V. —, Caleb Elphee, chaplain; R. W. Twitchell, surgeon; Curtiss Burk, quartermaster; Alonzo Kingsley, adjutant; George Andrus, officer of the day; Miles B. Jones, outside guard.

Those who have joined since organization are: Wm. Laird, H. J. Young, A. M. Lombard, W. R. Brooks, Isaac Nichols, J. B. Greenlee, Lester Welch, W. C. Garratt, D. D. Farrell, O. H. Case, A. C. Case, L. M. Moore, Jacob Gasper, S. B. Sanford, Daniel Ryan, Benj. Farrington, Richard Tuper, George Hubbard, Orson Bagley, John Toole, Wm. Harrison, Alonzo Foster, L. L. Kellham, H. H. Rowe, J. A. McLaughlin, O. H. Chapman, Amos Martin, David Stellanberger, Whitney Schoolcraft, Jerome Case, W. T. Williams, N. K. Culver, John Scott, David Allen, J. H. Tyson, O. B. Sutherland, Corwin Johnson, H. C. Morris, Geo. W. Perry, Wm. Tucker, C. M. Culver, L. Hill, L. Briggs, Eugene Oviatt, Frank B. Lathan, Charles Cotton, Hiram Palmer, John Palaski, Wm. Swartz, Wm. A. Woodward, Abiger Lee, H. G. Case, James Cocker, D. H. Colton, Ambrose B. Clark, Frank Conrad, Lemuel Denny, Simon Engle, Guy Empey, G. J. French, Albinas Quisile, James Martin and Robert Richards.

The following record of service appears on the rolls: John R. Jones, A., Second Minn. Cavalry (dead); John T. Murphey, D., Third Iowa Infantry; Caleb Elphee, B., Fifth Minn. (dead); Wm. Laird, D., First U. S. Engineers; Isaac Nichols, D., Thirty-Second Wisconsin (dead); John Greenlee, D., Eighth Minn.; W. R. Brooks, H., Sixth Minn.; Henry Young, D., Sixth Minn. (dead); A. M. Lombard, U. S. Navy (dead); J. M. Moore, A., Fifteenth Vermont (dead); O. H. Case, G., Seventh Minn.; A. C. Case, A., Second Minn.; D. D. Ferrall, A., Second Minn.; W. C. Garratt, A., Second Minn. (dead); Jacob Gasper, C., Third Minn.; Dan Ryan, I., First Minn.; Benjamin Farrington, A., Second Minn. (dead); S. B. Sanford, H., Ninety-Sixth Ill.; Richard Tuper, D., Eighth Minn. (dead); Orson Bagley, H., Second Minn.; John Hart, D., Eighth Minn. (dead); A. C. Coffin, A., Second Minn.; W. H. Batterson, F., First Minn. Cavalry; Curtiss Burk, A., Second Minn.; C. A. Prouty, I., Eleventh Minn. (dead); Geo. C. Fisher, F., First Minn.; A. V. Jennings, L., Vol. Engineers (dead); Gilbert Messer, A., Third Iowa Infantry (dead); Alonzo Kingsley, F., Tenth Ill. (dead); J. M. Higley, K., Fifth Iowa Cavalry (dead); Miles B. Jones, K., Ninety-ninth Indiana; Levi Ober, C., Second Minn. (dead); Wm. Silsbee, Second Minn. Battery (dead); M. W. Allen, F., First Minn. Rangers (dead); R. W. Twitchell, surgeon, Ninth Minn. (dead);

George Andrus, H., Second Minn. Cavalry; George Hubbard, H., Seventeenth Wis.; John Tuel, F., Thirty-Third Wis. (dead); H. H. Rowe, H., Ninety-Fifth Ill. Volunteers; Wm. Harrison, D., Eighth Minn.; Gor. F. Allen, D., Twenty-Fifth Massachusetts; Don F. Kendall, G., Fifth Wisconsin (dead); David Stellanberger, H., Sixth Minn. (dead); W. R. Brooks, F., First Minn. Rangers; W. T. Williams, B., Seventh Illinois; Jerome Case, G., Sixteenth Wisconsin (dead); Amos M. Masters, K., Twenty-Ninth Wisconsin (dead); Whitney Schoolcraft, B., Twenty-Third Minn. Reserve; Horace Allen, C., Bracket's Battalion; J. A. McLaughlin, I., Tenth New York Artillery; N. K. Culver, captain, Fifth Minn. (dead); H. C. Morris, B., Twenty-Third Ill. (dead); John W. Scott, D., Eighth Minn.; David Allen, A., First Ill. Volunteers; Corwin Johnson, D., Eighth Minn.; John M. Tyson, G., Eleventh Minn.; John Loughrey, G., Second Minn. Cavalry (dead); D. H. Tyler, C., Sixth Minn.; A. Briggs, Foster's Battalion, Wisconsin (dead); C. M. Culver, K., Fifth Minn.; Wm. Tucker, K., Ninth Minn.; Wm. Swartz, E., Eleventh Minn. (dead); W. A. Woodward, D., Forty-Second Ill. (dead); A. G. Case, A., Second Minn. Infantry; James Cocker, C., Second Minn. Infantry (dead); D. H. Colton, K., Third Minn. Infantry; Frank Conrad, F., Third Iowa Infantry; Ambrose B. Clark, D., Eighty-Third Pennsylvania; Charles H. Cotton, D., Forty-Seventh Wisconsin; Lemuel Denny, I., Eleventh Minn.; Simon Engle, I., Sixth Minn. Infantry; Guy Empey, E., Forty-Seventh N. Y. Infantry; G. J. French, I., First Minn. Infantry; Lafayette Hill, D., Eighth Minn. Infantry; John Halloran, C., Twenty-Sixth Illinois Infantry; H. H. Hayden, D., Eighth Minn. Infantry; Albinas Kuisei, K., Fourth Minn. Infantry; James Martin, H., First Minn. Heavy Artillery; George Perry, I., Eleventh Minn. Infantry; John Pulaski, D., Eighth Wisconsin Infantry; Robert Richards, E., Eighteenth Wisconsin Infantry; David Savage, D., Eighth Minn. Infantry (dead); O. B. Sutherland, E., One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry; L. B. Sanford, H., Ninety-Sixth Illinois Infantry.

The present officers are: C. M. Johnson, commander; C. H. Cotton, senior vice-commander; Geo. Perry, junior vice-commander; Geo. Fisher, officer of the day; John B. Greenly, quartermaster; W. R. Brooks, chaplain; John Murphey, officer of the guard; H. H. Rowe, adjutant.

E. L. Kenney Post has observed Memorial Day for many years. The citizens and schools have taken an active part in the exercises. Of late years on account of the depleted ranks, the business men and especially the Commercial club have been a great help to the post in a financial way, and at the last Memorial Day the citizens donated the use of twenty automobiles to take the old veterans to the cemetery.

Surprise Camp, No. 133, Royal Neighbors of America was organized March 27, 1895, at the home of Mrs. C. W. Ray of Canton by Deputy A. J. Dawson of Slayton, Minn., with the following charter members: Edith Weatherell, Alice Hudson, Emma Reed, Florence Manuel, Allie Wheeler, Dora Boyd, Mary Langwell, Mary L. Ryan, Cella McMaster, Bertha Bates, Jane McMaster, Tillie Larson, Anna Larson, Mate Jacobs, Carrie Funk, Lizzie Shutt, Sophia Anderson, Tena



Helgeson, Margaret Ray, Edith Webster, Nellie Wickett, Inez Holmes, Emma Hudson, Sarah Willford, Frances Mitson, Minnie Fay, Grace Jones, Jennie Sprague, Susan Hegland, Mary Spencer, Henrietta Allison, Clara Scott, Sarah Langwell, Anna Shutt and Birdie Johnson.

Celia McMaster was the first oracle and Edith Weatherill first recorder. The meeting place was in the I. O. O. F. Hall until 1900, when they moved into the Masonic Hall where they still hold their meetings.

The present officers are: Gladys Willford, oracle; Claudene Boyd, vice-oracle; Celia McMaster, past oracle; Cora Masters, recorder; Adelia Beach, receiver; Frances Mitson, chancellor; Grace Kimball, marshal; Lottie Pierce, assistant marshal; Mabel Hudson, inner sentinel; Anna Boardman, outer sentinel; The membership at present time is thirty-eight beneficiary and seventeen social members.

The deceased are: John Ryan, died May 16, 1902; Margaret Ray, June 29, 1903; Addie Roukin, April 8, 1904; Addie L. Vail, April 18, 1904; Sydney Boyd, July 19, 1904; Clara Kaasa, August 26, 1907; and Inez Hudson, December 2, 1910.

This society is a fraternal beneficiary society and its object is to improve socially, morally and intellectually and to give moral and material aid to its members and those dependent upon them.

Spring Valley Camp, No. 245, Royal Neighbors of America was organized Jan. 30, 1896. The first officers were: Oracle, Alma Viall; vice oracle, Andrie Withie; chancellor, Helen C. Halbkat; marshal, Rose Schell; recorder, W. W. Bonticou; receiver, Lydia M. Kumm; inner sentinel, Agnes Kleven; outer sentinel, Emma Nelson; physicians, J. R. Johnson, F. W. Thornhill, R. L. Moore; managers, Florence Bonticou, Rose Schell, Helen C. Halbkat; past oracle, Florence Bonticou. The camp has enjoyed a prosperous career. The present recorder is Georgiana G. Stevens.

Centennial Lodge, No. 56, I. O. O. F., of Spring Valley, was instituted Nov. 22, 1876. The charter members were: H. S. Porter, G. W. Gregory, L. W. Harris, N. Brass and Jacob Shoemaker. The lodge has enjoyed a tranquil and prosperous career, and has been an influence for good in the community. The present officers are: Noble grand, George A. Beagle; vice grand, E. A. Robertson; secretary, Milo G. Graling; treasurer, J. N. Graling.

Centennial Rebekah Lodge No. 46 I. O. O. F. was organized March 6, 1890. The charter members were: J. N. and Josephine Graling; W. H. and Isabelle Arnold; C. H. and Sarah C. Pfremmer; J. L. and Louisa Weisman; J. B. and Ann E. Dunham.

The noble grands have been: Florence Bonticou, Lydia Schofield, Isabelle Arnold, Anna Dunham, Katie Lamson, Helen Halbkat, Orpha Hendershott, Frances Graling, Nellie Washburn, Jessie Averill, Eliza Goodwin, Anna Hamlin, Hattie Kingsley, Eva Stevens, Cora Leonard and Hattie Howell. The secretaries have been: Katie Lamson, Grace Lawrence, C. A. Lamson, Lydia Schofield, Frances Graling, Orpha Hendershott, Eva Stevens.

The present officers are: N. G. Hattie Howell; V. G. Mabel McFarland; secretary, Lydia Schofield; treasurer, F. E. Hamlin; warden, F.

E. Hamlin; conductor, Viola Hermes; chaplain, Nellie Washburn; R. S. to N. G., Anna Hamlin; L. S. to N. G., H. F. Hermes; R. S. to V. G., Anna Dunham; L. S. to V. G., Josephine Loucks; I. G., C. L. Leonard; O. G., Cora Leonard.

The lodge stands for benevolence and charity, not only to its own members but to others of the community as well. In cases of sickness it has given relief and in the hour of death, the bereaved ones have found comfort in the sympathy extended by the lodge. The lodge stands for pleasant associations to its members and to the uplifting of the morals of the community, and the character of the individual. The lodge also helps in the support of the state I. O. O. F. home at Northfield and annually sends some gift to the inmates of the home at Christmas time.

Preston Camp, No. 276, Modern Woodmen of America was organized Dec. 2, 1855. The charter members were: A. D. Gray, W. H. Pooler, Fred Burton, C. E. McKinley, Henry Jones, John W. Archer, John Archer, Wm. Kruppenbacher, E. V. Farrington, Myers Conkey, W. E. Bigelow, Sr.

The present officers are: Consul, P. L. Wilson; past consul, Dell Young; advisor, Wallace Seeley, banker, W. J. Merrill; clerk, O. E. Frogner; escort, Harvey Clark; watchman, Henry Watson; sentry, Ernie Coubern, managers, H. A. Larson, W. H. Pooler and Harvey Clark; physician, Dr. G. A. Love.

The camp has accomplished substantial benefits and promoted fraternal relationship among its members during life, and furnished financial aid and indemnity to the beneficiaries of beneficial members.

Fountain Camp, No. 3085, M. W. A. received its charter July 13, 1896. The charter members were: F. E. Ashton, B. J. Bauers, E. A. Buckbesch, William Buckbesch, Henry Buckbesch, Thomas Churchill, L. Erickson, G. O. Farrell, Bernard Foster, R. W. Hathaway, Knute Hegland, H. J. Heldt, J. O. Jacobson, Thomas Langan, T. G. Parker and Robert Turner. The venerable councils have been: F. E. Ashton, M. W. Kellogg, C. E. Gillin, L. S. Scott and B. J. Bauers. The clerks have been Thomas Churchill, William Buckbesch and C. C. Pickering. The present venerable council is L. S. Scott, and P. J. Severud is the clerk.

Chatfield Lodge, No. 89, A. O. U. W., was organized April 13, 1886, with fifteen charter members. The first officers were: Past master workman, R. McNeil; master workman, M. A. Trow; foreman, N. L. Roberts; Overseer, H. E. Hamlin; recorder, E. V. Farrington; financier, W. T. Williams; receiver, Geo. J. Hubbard; guide, N. L. Wythe; inside watch, Adam Belt; outside watch, W. A. Butler.

There have been sixteen different master workmen. Some have served two and some three terms in that office. In 1897 the A. O. W. W. Hall was erected at a cost of twenty-six hundred dollars—one of the best in the city. The membership increased steadily and reached 165. The assessments, too, increased to \$24 a year. This reduced the membership to 140, a loss of 25. Three years ago the grand lodge changed assessment rates based upon present age. This was hard on the older members. So the membership again was reduced by thirty-six dropping out, leaving 104



members. But the insurance proves good of the kind, and the number to-day is 122. The members feel sure that with the ever-increasing emergency fund that the grand lodge has established, places the order on a permanent foundation and that the good work will continue to bless many homes of the widows and orphans of our land in the years to come.—By W. T. Williams.

Spring Valley Council, No. 1636, Royal Arcanum, received its charter Aug. 1, 1895. It is a prosperous lodge, and like the other lodges of this order throughout the United States, is made up of the best representative people of the community. The present officers are: Regent, J. L. Norgaarden; vice regent, Ole Aamot; past regent, N. J. Cummings; secretary, J. H. Halbak; collector, W. J. Lyman; treasurer, E. M. Lloyd; chaplain, M. J. Graling; guide, F. E. Hamlin; orator, C. H. Belden; warden, H. E. Week; sentry, Olaus Olson.

The Fillmore County Business Men's Association was organized in April, 1906. The first officers were: President, J. C. Halbak, Spring Valley; vice president, S. A. Nelson, Lanesboro; treasurer, P. W. Young, Canton; secretary, Frank J. Ibach, Preston. The object of the association is mutual improvement. Annual meetings and banquets are held, the business integrity of the county is discussed, credits are talked over, the progress of the county is promoted, and an opportunity is given for merchants of the various towns to become acquainted. Mr. Halbak, one of the moving spirits in the association, was president three years. The present officers are: President, J. H. Leary, Lanesboro; vice president, J. C. White, Mabel; treasurer, William Keuthe, Preston; secretary, W. F. Williams, Lanesboro.

The Fillmore County Poultry Association is a new organization which has already demonstrated its usefulness. The officers are: President, B. F. Nelli; vice president, Joseph Shaw; secretary and treasurer, R. E. Farnham; executive committee, W. E. Nelli (chairman), O. W. Moore, Jessie Gordon, Dr. W. N. Kendrick and S. J. Huntley.

Burdick Post, No. 3, G. A. R., Department of Minnesota. Shortly after the reorganization of the Department of Minnesota in 1880, a request was made by a number of the old soldiers of Spring Valley, that a local post be organized. Accordingly on the evening of Dec. 4, 1880, Adam Marty, provisional department commander, met a number of veterans at the office of A. R. Burleson, and organized the first G. A. R. post in southern Minnesota, the first in the state. The charter members were: A. R. Burleson, Charles W. Ackley, R. C. Livingston, H. B. Thayer, George C. Weed, Otho Stevens, C. E. Huntley, M. M. Cowles, T. L. Gould, J. W. McNeely, C. E. Yearlan, O. W. Moore and T. A. Douglass.

Following is a roster of the members: Charles W. Ackley, K., First Wisconsin, B. Fifth U. S. Veterans; Warren D. Andrews, A. Second Minn.; L. M. Ashley, F. First Minn. Heavy Artillery; Silas Avery, H. Sixth Minnesota; E. L. Babcock, C. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; W. G. Banks, H. Fourteenth Pennsylvania; John Bar, C. Fifth Minnesota; John C. Bateman, A. Second Minn.; Second Veteran Reserve Corps; Dwight L. Beagle, A. Second Minnesota Cavalry;

W. W. Bontecou, One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth New York; S. E. Boyce, G. First Wisconsin; A. R. Burleson, drum major, Fifth Vermont, first lieutenant, First New York Dragoons; A. L. Colard, K., Seventeenth Pennsylvania Cavalry; M. M. Cowles, B. Sixteenth Wisconsin; D. Eighth Minnesota; James Cramp, D. Eighth Minnesota; J. J. Crist, A. First Minnesota; John Dormady, D. Eighth Minnesota; Edward Dote, I. Fifty-Eighth Massachusetts; T. A. Douglass, C. Third Minnesota; C. G. Edwards, Nineteenth Ohio, brevet lieutenant colonel One Hundred and Fifth Ohio; Marvin Eggleston, first lieutenant and quartermaster, One Hundred and Forty-Sixth New York; Reuben Gasper, A. Ninth Minnesota; Levi Gates, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, D. Brackett's Battalion; E. P. Goodwin, C. Fifty-Fifth Illinois; T. L. Gould, second lieutenant, E. Twenty-Ninth Ohio; O. Gould, K. Sixth Minnesota; John D. Gregory, I. Fifth Minnesota; H. F. Griffin, C. Twelfth Vermont; E. D. Hamner, K. Fourth Minnesota; L. P. Hann, K. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; O. J. Hatlestad, I. First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; John Hawkins, C. Third Minnesota; Henry G. Hill, E. Thirty-Eighth Ohio; W. W. Hoagland, I. One Hundred and Sixty-First New York; H. W. Hookema, D. Eighth Wisconsin; D. P. Howell, K. Fifth Wisconsin; Arlo L. Howe, C. Third Minnesota; C. E. Huntley, K. Fourth Minnesota; D. Brackett's Battalion; W. S. Ingalls, E. Seventh Minnesota; Jesse B. Johnson, I. First Minnesota; Richard A. Judd, H. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; Samuel Kraver, M. First Pennsylvania Cavalry; James Keck, D. Eighth Minnesota; E. Kenyon, A. Second Minnesota; Charles R. Kleckler, C. Third Minnesota; George D. Knox, C. Third Minnesota; Thomas Layton, D. Third Wisconsin; William Layton, I. One Hundred and Forty-Second New York; J. S. Lee, K. Thirty-Ninth Wisconsin; Eli Leonard, A. Second Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry; Freeman Leonard, A. Second Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry; R. C. Livingston, E. Fourteenth Ohio; S. C. Lobdill, G. Twenty-Fourth Ohio; A. M. Loucks, Fourth Independent Wisconsin Artillery; W. A. Lyman, I. Twentieth Wisconsin; F. Thirty-Fifth Wisconsin; Rosco G. Millett, D. Eighth Minnesota; R. L. Moore, Seventh Wisconsin; O. W. Moore, K. First Minnesota; Samuel Murrey, F. Twelfth United States Infantry; George H. McIntyre, C. Thirty-Second Wisconsin, F. United States Marines; F. M. McKinzie, D. Sixth Wisconsin; J. W. McNeely, E. Seventh Minnesota; Augustus McNeely, A. Second Minnesota; George A. McNeir, A. Second Minnesota Cavalry; Thomas Newell, I. Eleventh Minnesota; Louis Parker, C. Third Minnesota; Christian Pfremmer, E. Seventh Minnesota; H. N. Pierce, D. Third Wisconsin; L. H. Prosser, Thirty-Third Illinois; A. D. Prosser, I. Fifth Minnesota; Frank Rabe, B. Seventeenth Wisconsin; D. Rathbun, C. Third Minnesota; C. J. Richardson, F. One Hundred and Forty-Sixth Pennsylvania; W. G. Roberts, B. First West Virginia; W. G. Rundell, C. Third Minnesota; D. C. Sanborn, E. Twelfth United States; R. R. Sisson, K. Sixth Minnesota; George H. Smith, F. First Minnesota Rangers, D. Brackett's Battalion; C. E. Smith, B. First Vermont Heavy Artillery; John Steffens, E. Second Wisconsin; Otho Stevens, H. Third Minnesota; H. K. Stoddard, K. Eighth Vermont,

G. Second Veteran Reserves; Albert Swift, I. One Hundred and Thirtieth New York; John Taylor, C. Sixteenth Connecticut; H. B. Thayer, H. Fifty-Second Massachusetts; W. T. Thayer, H. Eighty-Third Pennsylvania; Henry Ubrig, I. Eleventh Minnesota; H. H. Wallace, C. Third Minnesota; G. M. Warren, F. One Hundred and Thirty-Second Illinois; George C. Weed, C. Third Minnesota; Thad A. Wilkins, B. Independent Minnesota Cavalry; R. A. Winsor, C. Seventh Rhode Island; George W. Whiting, K. Fortieth and Twenty-Second Wisconsin; J. E. Whitman, B. Forty-First Wisconsin; J. R. Wright, D. Twelfth Wisconsin; C. E. Yearian, Eighty-First Illinois; H. W. Arnold, D. Eighth Minnesota; S. C. Babcock, A. Twenty-Ninth Wisconsin; Lyman J. Baker, I. Eleventh Minnesota; Ward Bentley, I. First Wisconsin Cavalry; John M. Bonesteel, K. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; L. J. Brown, Second Minnesota Sharpshooters; O. Clouse, Eleventh Ohio Battery; George Correll, K. Fifth Ohio Cavalry; C. Brackett's Battalion; W. A. Deckard, unassigned; Adam Dotzenrodt, Second Minnesota; M. F. Farrington, I. Eleventh Minnesota; Henry Farnham, Second Minnesota Light Artillery; Lathrop Fish, F. First California; George S. Frost, M. First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; F. W. Glover, C. First Wisconsin; K. Twenty-Ninth Wisconsin; Henry Golsbery, F. Ninth-Ninth Indiana. Forty-Eighth Indiana; J. N. Graling, K. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; C. W. Greene, D. Twelfth New York, A. Fifteenth New York Cavalry; Augustus Grobey, E. Tenth Minnesota; Henry Guy, A. Second Minnesota; Aaron Hall, H. One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Indiana; John Hamblin, I. Third Minnesota; Andrew Hanson, G. Second Minnesota; Philo Ingalls, I. Eleventh Minnesota; Dan T. Johnson, D. Third Michigan Cavalry; Knudt Johnson, E. Fifteenth Wisconsin; James Kerwin, G. Fifth Minnesota; T. O. Kilburn, F. Second Minnesota; C. V. Knox, F. First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; Jonathan Mott, A. Thirtieth Wisconsin; W. E. McIntyre, I. Eleventh Wisconsin; A. McD'Meek, D. Seventh New Hampshire, G. Twelfth Veteran Reserve Corps; Orin Neul, F. First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; C. R. Neilson, A. Eighteenth Iowa; Simeon Olds, C. Third Minnesota; Daniel Paul, D. Brackett's Battalion; Geo. Puhnam, F. Ninety-Sixth Illinois; Francis Rafferty, C. Ninth Minnesota; Almos Rexford, F. First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; K. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; Copel'd Richardson, K. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; J. L. Robbins, I. Eleventh Minnesota; Mark Seely, F. First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; Newell Seely, C. Ninety-Fifth Illinois; G. W. Severson, H. Twentieth Wisconsin, E. Thirty-fifth Wisconsin; W. J. Shepard, M. Fifth New York Heavy Artillery; G. R. Shipton, A. Second Minnesota; H. H. Skaarberg, K. Sixth Minnesota; J. E. Stewart, D. Twentieth Iowa; L. M. Sturdivant, E. Sixteenth Wisconsin; James Tabor, F. Second Minnesota; Joseph Tate, C. Third Minnesota; Isaac Tucker, H. Sixth Wisconsin; W. A. Van Loan, B. Forty-Eighth Wisconsin; A. H. Wallace, C. Third Minnesota; S. B. Warren, K. First Minnesota; Thad A. Wilkins, B. Hatch's Cavalry; W. H. Albro, K. First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; S. H. Bateman, I. Eleventh Minnesota;

Chas. Byers, C. Thirteenth Wisconsin; W. F. Davis, B. Forty-Fifth Illinois; R. Duxbury, First Minnesota Light Artillery; Wm. Davidson, D. Sixth and C. First Wisconsin; J. Farrar, C. Forty-Seventh Illinois; A. N. Fellers, I. Eighth Illinois Cavalry; Fred Gas-kill, G. Second Minnesota Signal Service; W. H. Keesey, F. Twenty-Third Pennsylvania; Geo. Knowles, B. Fifth Minnesota; J. R. Lillie, F. First Minnesota Rangers; L. Lussell, E. Eleventh Maine; Wm. McKinley, Eighth Wisconsin; L. H. Nash, H. Eighth Minnesota; G. M. Plummer, C. Hatch's Cavalry; David Pierce, E. Seventh Minnesota; W. R. Reese, A. Twenty-Fifth Wisconsin; M. B. Rumsey, G. Two Hundred and Seventh Pennsylvania; C. A. Swan, Fourth Iowa; James Smith, M. Tenth Michigan Cavalry; Chas. Sante, I. Sixteenth United States; K. Torgeson, G. Twenty-eighth Wisconsin; Samuel Turner, K. First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery; F. Warner, F. First Minnesota. In this list "Volunteer Infantry" is understood, unless otherwise stated.

North Star Chapter, No. 11, Royal Arch Masons.—This chapter has been one of the strongest Masonic landmarks in Fillmore county, and has numbered some of the leading men of the county in its membership. The charter members were: John R. Jones, John H. McKinney, H. S. Griswold, Malcolm McLarty, William R. Edwards, E. H. Shaw, C. G. Holden, J. J. R. Spornitz, William Shimer.

The three principal officers from them to 1890 were as follows, the M. E. H. P., the E. K. and the E. S. respectively being given under each year.

1866 to 1868—John R. Jones, John H. McKinney, H. S. Griswold. 1869—John H. McKinney, Malcolm McLarty, H. S. Griswold. 1870—John H. McKinney, C. G. Holden, George Andrews. 1871—William R. Edwards, C. G. Holden, William Strafford. 1872—William R. Edwards, C. G. Holden, Levi Bemis. 1873 to 1874—John H. McKinney, C. G. Holden, Levi Bemis. 1875—Levi M. Bemis, S. S. McKinney, I. F. O'Ferrall. 1876—C. G. Holden, W. H. Dunham, I. F. O'Ferrall. 1877—W. H. Dunham, I. F. O'Ferrall, Levi Bemis. 1878 to 1879—W. L. Briley, I. F. O'Ferrall, Levi Bemis. 1880—Nathan Kingsley, I. F. O'Ferrall, Levi Bemis. 1883—Nathan Kingsley, Levi Bemis, C. G. Holden. 1884—John R. Jones, Levi Bemis, C. M. Lovell. 1885—Nathan Kingsley, Levi Bemis, C. M. Lovell. 1886—George Andrews, Levi Bemis, M. A. Trow. 1887—William Strafford, Levi Bemis, M. A. Trow. 1888 to 1889—William Strafford, Levi Bemis, J. M. House. Since 1889 the three principal officers have been: 1889—E. G. Bolles, W. A. Murphy, T. W. Woodruff. 1900—A. Lober, Frank Shumway, Charles Doud. 1901—Frank Shumway, William Strafford, T. A. Woodruff. 1902—William Strafford, C. V. Ferguson, William Murphy. 1903—C. V. Ferguson, C. M. Cooper, George Jackson. 1904—C. M. Cooper, T. R. Hamilton, L. P. Case. 1905—C. M. Cooper, T. R. Hamilton, L. P. Case. 1906—C. M. Cooper, George Andrus, T. A. Woodruff. 1907—C. M. Cooper, E. G. Bolles, T. A. Woodruff. 1908—C. M. Cooper, E. G. Bolles, T. A. Woodruff. 1909—C. M. Cooper, E. G. Bolles, T. A. Woodruff. 1910—C. M. Cooper, E. G. Bolles, R. L. H. Lora. 1911—C. M. Cooper, E. G. Bolles, R. L. H. Lord. 1912—C. M. Cooper, E. G. Bolles, L. P. Case.

# HISTORY OF FILLMORE COUNTY

## APPENDIX V

### MISCELLANEOUS

**The Onstine Party, by M. H. Onstine—The Lanesboro Schools, by Mrs. C. C. Scanlan—Early Days in Bloomfield, by O. P. Hadland—Fountain Waterworks, by A. W. Powers—Farmers' Mutual Cyclone Insurance Company—Gray & Thompson—Rushford Wagon Factory—Spring Valley Sun—Highland Village—Early Rushford Schools—Harmony Schools—Reminiscences of Uriah Williams—Reminiscences of Kate Little—Early Days in Rushford—Canton Items—Canton Schools—Elliotta—Canton Village—Prosper—Lenora—Soldiers from Canton.**

**The Onstine Party.**—Henry Onstine set out from Ohio, in April, 1853, in company with his son, Michael H., and his son-in-law, B. F. Tillotson. Henry and his companions pushed their way west into Wisconsin, where he was joined by his brother, Michael, and family, who had moved from Seneca county, Ohio, in 1847, and bought land in Green county, Wisconsin. E. P. Eddy, a son-in-law, who had a farm near Monroe, Wis., sold out and also joined the party. Crossing the Mississippi at Dubuque, Iowa, they wandered westward to Quasquon, Buchanan county, where they camped for a month or more, awaiting a report from a viewing party sent into southern Iowa and Northern Missouri. Finding nothing suitable for the colony, they continued the search in Iowa, camping at Charles City, Independence and Bradford, on the Cedar river, and finally taking claims on the Wapsipinicon river in Chickasaw county. But a few days later John B. Onstine, a nephew and young attorney, who lived in Decorah, passing by on business, met and discouraged his uncles from settling in the sloughs and by flattering inducements turned them toward southern Minnesota. Tired and jaded the families were next cared for by securing rooms at Fort Atkinson, thirty miles from Decorah, while a party was sent in advance to select claims and build shanties. This party crossed over into Minnesota territory in August, 1853, and camped with James Kelly, Sr., who had come in the spring and settled one mile south of what is now Lenora Village. A Mr. Woodruff had taken a claim in what is now section 32, town of Amherst, built a log cabin, broke and planted ten acres of corn and wheat. His place was on the Indian trail from the Hokah to the Iowa rivers. A party of hungry Indians once stopped there to ask for food. Crazed with excitement and alarm, Mrs. Woodruff ran with her baby to the timber where Mr. Woodruff was at work. She could not be reconciled to such visitors, so her husband sold the claim to James Kelly, Jr., for an old shotgun and a cow. He then made a claim in section 36, in the town of Canton. With speculative genius he sold this for an old horse and a shoddy gold watch, thus placing him in a position to return to civilization. Wm. McHenry, then a young man, and an old gentleman by the name of Collier spent the winter of 1852 and 1853 in the grove of what is now the Sauer farm, McHenry claiming what is now the poor farm timber and the prairie opposite in

section 33, town of Amherst. This and the Woodruff claim and the eighty acres between is the original purchase made by Henry Onstine for farms for his two sons-in-law and himself, paying \$375 for the same.

**The Lanesboro Schools.**—The history of the Lanesboro schools has much in common with the history of the other schools of the county.

The earliest necessity in school accommodation was met by holding school in the Densmore building, but the old stone school building which still adorns the school house hill was planned before 1870. As the first lumber ever brought to Lanesboro was drawn by an ox team from Rushford in the spring of 1868 it is plain that the school is practically as old as the town. The first building was erected during the time that the trees were being cut to make room for the business buildings.

The new school started with Superintendent Gorman and three teachers. In 1877 the management passed to Prof. Wright.

On July 27, 1878, the school board resolved "to comply with the conditions of the High school law to embrace in our course all the subjects required for entering the sub-freshman class of the state university." Whatever was done along this line at that time was of temporary duration, and entire credit for placing the school in the high school list was due to K. W. Buell, who served the schools long and most faithfully as superintendent.

On May 11, 1886, a committee was appointed to confer with Mr. Buell in such preparation as was needed for high school work, and final action was taken in the next year.

Crowded conditions in 1886 made it necessary to annex the Park School House. Plans for a new building were well under way when K. W. Buell resigned to take up his duties as county superintendent. Mr. Long completed the unexpired part of Mr. Buell's term.

In the fall of 1891 the four-room brick building was completed, and during the next five years the schools were under the efficient management of J. E. Tenney. Mr. Tenney was succeeded by Mr. Wells and Mr. Taylor, each remaining one year.

The brick building was doubled in size in 1903, and many other changes and improvements made to keep pace with the steady growth and with the times.

Since the fall of 1899 there have been four superintendents, J. C. Miller, R. A. Buell, A. R. Kent and Charles Eginton. Their earnest efforts have

kept the Lanesboro schools in rapid progress.

The year 1912 marks another great change since a large addition has been made to the brick building, making it one of the finest and most commodious buildings in the state. Fifteen thousand dollars is the cost of the latest improvements, and the school offers domestic science, manual training and a normal course, in addition to the regular grade and high school work.

The two school buildings are heated and ventilated by the fan system, and are in every way strictly up-to-date, representing a money value of over \$40,000, and, like all good schools, the Lanesboro School has an intrinsic value that cannot be measured by human standards.—By Mrs. C. C. Scanlan.

**Early Days in Bloomfield.**—O. P. Hadland, son of Peter O. Hadland, one of the first settlers of Bloomfield township, has prepared for this work the following story of the coming of that pioneer party in the far distant days of 1854.

The first party of Norwegians who settled in Bloomfield came from Muskego, Wis., in the spring of 1854. They were Ole and Mathew Helleckson, Ole Halling and Ole Olan, who had families, and Peter O. Hadland and Henry Olson Olan, single men. The party stayed for two weeks near Decorah, while Ole Helleckson and two others started on an exploring journey westward. They visited Burr Oak, Lenora and Highland Prairie, but the country did not suit them, so they drifted westward until they met a locator who took them to Bear Creek, Mowers county. Having decided to settle here they went back to bring their families and other belongings. Meanwhile the locator improved his time by bringing another party of Norwegians to the same place, receiving pay from both. As the second party was more numerous, Mr. Helleckson and his party turned back and finally settled on the banks of the Root river, in sections 20, 21, 27 and 28, town of Bloomfield. Here they found an abundance of what the early settlers always looked for—good water, timber and meadow lands. The only visible sign of white men was a rude log hut covered with bark. In a few days the owner of this hut, a professional squatter by the name of Roy Rundall, appeared and claimed everything in sight for himself and friends. As he backed up his arguments with a gun the settlers thought if the part of wisdom to buy him off, and in order to have it "on the square," they all went to John Bateman, who was secretary for a vigilance committee organized to keep claim jumpers and other undesirable citizens out. Here the Norwegians paid Rundall and his friends \$175 for their rights, real or imaginary, and everybody was happy.

During the Indian outbreak in 1862 a great terror fell on the people. I can remember how the whole neighborhood gathered for several nights in my Uncle Henry Olson's house so there was hardly standing room. To fight the Indians they had just one shotgun, besides any number of pitchforks, axes and scythes.

In the year 1876 a school teacher by the name of Knute Hyelle started a country store on the southeastern corner of section 28. He had a good trade, but in 1879 he sold out to H. O. and C. M. Larson. The Larson brothers had a postoffice established there about

1881 and named it Hurdal, after a valley in Norway from which many of the people in the vicinity had come. The Larson brothers sold out to the firm of Hanson & Lundby, who in turn moved to the new village of Ostrand when the Winona & Southwestern was built through Bloomfield in 1891.

The village of Tifton was founded by W. T. Bly and named after one of his sons. Mr. Bly was a minister, doctor and speculator who expected great things from the embryo city he had founded. Block 10 of the platted village was set aside and donated to future generations for a public park, but as the village never grew large enough to incorporate and improve said property it became an apple of discord to the inhabitants.

One worthy resident tried to get possession of block 10 by pasturing cows and paying taxes on it, but his scheme proved a failure. The enraged citizens took the case into court, where his claim was declared null and void.

The murder mentioned in the history of Bloomfield, told elsewhere in this work, was committed in the town of Beaver. The man who was murdered was a one-armed Englishman, his body was found in Slough creek, covered with brush.

The first man to make any improvements in the town was John Bateman. My father found him breaking prairie land in section 1 in the summer of 1854 and he had put up a fence the year before.

Russell Rexford died from the effects of exposure in a journey to Brownsville to save his claim.

In the spring of 1887 W. J. Sherwin, an early settler, his son and a span of horses were drowned in trying to cross the Root river.

The blue-blooded aristocracy of Europe pride themselves of ancestors, who have not done an honest day's work for a hundred generations. We, the militant democracy of the new world, should be proud of the fact that we are the descendants of the hardy pioneers who braved every danger, suffered every hardship, subdued the wilderness and established comfortable homes for themselves and their children.

**Fountain Waterworks.**—After being twice defeated at special elections the matter bonding the village for a system of waterworks was carried April 30, 1906. By a vote of about three to one the voters decided to bond the village in a sum not to exceed \$6,000, payable in twenty years. The work was taken up at once by the council, and the contract let to the National Construction Company, of Michigan. On August 20, 1907, the village voted \$4,000 more bonds to extend the system and pay up the entire indebtedness of the village. Fountain now has one of the best air pressure plants of any village of its size in the state, and a good supply of the best water is carried to the outskirts of the village in all directions.—By A. W. Powers.

The Farmers Mutual Cyclone Insurance Co., of Fillmore county, was organized Feb. 12, 1898, and now has insurance in force to the amount of \$2,050,000. The first officers were: President, A. R. Hungerford; secretary, D. K. Michener; treasurer, G. M. Warren. The present officers are: President, Arthur L. Sheldon; treasurer, G. M. Warren, treasurer, J. C. Meehum.

**Gray and Thompson.**—A. D. Gray and R. E. Thompson entered into partnership, and began practicing law under the firm name and style of Gray & Thompson, November 23, 1881. Along the line of criminal action, the firm has been very successful in defending men charged with the crime of murder. It has defended several men thus charged, and never lost a case. In 1904 the firm secured the acquittal of an Indian charged with murder in Ada, Norman county. The firm secured the acquittal of a man and his wife in Deadwood accused of manslaughter. Six years ago the firm secured a verdict of "insane" in the case of Professor Gifford, at Decorah, who was charged with the murder of his wife. The senior member of the firm tried these cases. In the Prof. Gifford case more alienists testified as witnesses than in the noted Gitto case. The firm also assisted the county attorney of Winneshiek county in the prosecution of John H. Cader charged with the crime of murder. He was convicted. The firm also has been very successful in civil actions. It has never acted for a railroad company, but has won a number of personal injury cases, notably an important one from the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. The firm, as attorneys for Thad T. Brokken, acted as administrators for the estate of his father, Tallek Brokken. The estate was the largest estate ever settled in the probate court of Fillmore county. It amounted to over half a million dollars, consisting of real estate in North Dakota, northern Minnesota, southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, together with notes, mortgages and bank stock. This estate was settled in fourteen months. The firm, with John W. Hopp, has just been successful in setting aside the will of Levi Bevis, in which will he attempted to provide for a home for aged people to be located in Chatfield, Minn. This is one of the most important cases along the line of trust law that has ever been decided by the Minnesota supreme court.

**Rushford Wagon Factory.**—In the year 1860, John Albertson, after working six years at his trade in Illinois, came to Rushford, and established himself in a small building in which he made and repaired wagons. A year later John Nelson bought an interest in the shop. Five years later, when Mr. Nelson died, Ole Laugen became a partner. In 1869, H. W. Holmes came to Rushford and opened a wagon factory. A year later, A. J. Stevens joined the firm. In 1872 the two firms consolidated, the new company taking the name of the Rushford Wagon Factory Company, with Messrs. Stevens, Albertson, Holmes and Laugen as the partners. A stone building was erected at once. In 1878, they began making carriages, buggies and sleighs. John Albertson had charge of the woodwork. G. J. Walker was general business manager and G. J. Walker was the bookkeeper. In September, 1879, the establishment was burned. The original owners then went to Winona, where they are manufacturing the "Rushford Wagon" under the name of the Winona Wagon Company.

A new company was formed at Rushford, under the name of the Rushford Wagon Company, the members being Phillip, Michael and Peter Miller. The new company bought the standing walls of the old plant, and in 1892 started manufacturing wagons. In 1897 Michael and Peter sold out to

Phillip Miller. In 1905 Phillip Miller died. In 1906, the concern was made a stock company with the following officers: President, M. A. Maland; vice president, Michael Miller; secretary, Peter Miller; treasurer, James Robertson.

The Spring Valley Sun was started September 2, 1891, by E. G. H. Adams, as a Democratic paper and published as such until Hon. Knute Nelson was elected Governor of Minnesota. The morning after the election it was discovered that the Democrats of Spring Valley and Fillmore county had voted the Republican ticket, thus electing Mr. Nelson governor. The next issue of the Sun came out as a Republican paper and it so remains to this day.

On April 15, 1905, Mr. Adams sold "The Sun" to Fred Farmer, who immediately sold the paper to L. H. Reinhardt, of St. Paul. Mr. Reinhardt conducted this paper about six months and disposed of it to S. J. Huntley, who managed the same until February 7, 1912, when it was sold to E. D. Lum, April 6, 1912, who in turn disposed of it to F. B. Dille, who tired of it in a month's time, selling the property to W. H. Lee, who is still conducting it.

Highland Village is situated on the boundary line between section thirty-five and thirty-six. Holt, which brings it in the southeast corner of the town. A northeast and southwest road intersects the section line road at this point. N. A. Graves and Andrew Shattuck who had farms here, realizing the need of a blacksmith shop, induced Christian Flohr to locate here, by each donating a piece of land, the one for a residence and the other for a shop. This was in 1864 or there about, and he sold to Olson and Westby in 1872 who had a short time before started a rival concern, the latter continued until 1891. The village was without a blacksmith shop until 1894 when Gabriel Munson built. A year later he sold to G. F. Colby who continued a few years then sold to Opperud and Son the present owners, who are up to date blacksmiths and machinists, and have a commodious and well equipped shop.

In 1866 a store was started by two brothers, Ole and Gjermanson, in the house built by the first blacksmith for a residence. They kept it open for about eighteen months, then sold to Onstine and Jones. Two years later it was disposed of to Graves and Son, who kept up the stock for a year, when it was turned over to Mr. Rye, who at the end of a year failed in business. Andrew Olson was the next incumbent and he did a flourishing business for eight years. Sometime in 1880 the store was rented to J. D. Elliott, who in 1882 sold his stock of goods to Christianson and Co. The junior member, J. A. Langord, continues the business to the present time. Another store was built in 1894 by C. Lawton. It passed into the hands of Oscar Nepstad. W. N. Wana enlarged it, and still owns the building, the stock having been purchased from Mr. Wana by Hans Paulson, later from him by Erlek Johnson, then by Forger Elstad, the present merchant who conducts an up-to-date general store, doing a thriving business.

**Highland Postoffice.**—N. A. Graves produced the establishment of a post-office in 1857 and was the first postmaster. The office was at his residence up to 1861 when the place was given to J. A. Rose. In the spring of

1862 Andrew Shattuck was made postmaster and the office was brought back to the village. Mr. Shattuck held the office continuously until 1869 when it was removed to the store of Jones & Onstine. When first established, the mail was brought by different persons for some time until a route was opened from La Crescent by the way of Hokah, Houston, Dedham or Yucatan, Highland, and Preston, the carrier making the trip weekly, and not infrequently on foot when the roads were impassable for teams. This was continued until the railroad was built to Rushford. Those were the palmy days of 1867-68 while the end of the road was at Rushford. The mail was carried daily from Rushford to Preston by a four-horse stage, which drove up with a flourish and a toot of the horn at the office, and the road was busy with the traffic of teams and big freight wagons. The postoffice has been held by several different ones during the years, the last one being W. N. Wana when it was discontinued with the extension of the rural delivery from Whalan in 1903. The first telephone line to enter the village was built by the Rushford Telephone Co. in the spring of 1897. This was quickly followed by farmers' lines. The "Highland Mutual" being first, was built in 1899. Others were soon built and now the county is a network of lines and scarcely a farmer is without a phone. Highland has a switchboard of eight lines with long distance connections.

**Early Rushford Schools.**—The first school district organized in Rushford was in the spring of 1857, and was what is now known as the Tenborg school district, the first teacher, Martha Emery, holding sessions in the basement of her father's house with fourteen scholars in attendance as follows: Sarah, Betsy, Stephen, Moses, Mary, Phoebe and George Emery; Mary, Kate, Roderick and Isabel McLeod; Mary Cameron; Gertrude Jackson and George Hitchcock.

The first school in the city was in the winter of 1857-58 when a private school, with half day sessions, was taught by Mrs. Henry Mead in her home where the Presbyterian parsonage now stands. The number of scholars in attendance was nine: Mary and Gamaliel Newcomb, Albert and Louisa Woodworth, George Otis, Frank Hulbert, Ervie Walker, Hattie Stebbins and Mary Cameron.

The next school was a term of three months in the spring of 1858, taught by Jane Waters in a claim shanty, on land now owned by John McLeod.

In the summer of 1858 the first schoolhouse was built in the city. A part of this schoolhouse is now the residence of F. A. Olson. Jane Waters was engaged to teach the school in the winter of 1858-59. The seats were long benches on either side, without desks, the boys on one side and the girls on the other. There were twenty-three scholars in attendance: Thomas Snell, Fremont and Edelbert Philbrick, Frank Hulbert, Myron Walker, Albert Woodworth, George Otis, Gamaliel Newcomb, Eric Iverson, Byron Knapp, John Lenvig, Duncan and Mary Cameron, Hattie Stebbins, Eva Walker, Josephine and Emma McAdams, May Stevens, Mary Otis, Elizabeth and Martha Blanchfield, Louisa Woodworth and Mathilda Peterson.

**Harmony Schools.**—District Number Forty (formerly known as district number twenty) was organized during the pioneer days of the early fifties.

It was the twentieth to be formed in Fillmore county and although a great many more have since been organized, it has always ranked among the first in educational affairs.

In the minutes of the first annual school meeting, held in 1859, we find this interesting information: Resolved, That three months of school be held by a qualified male teacher who shall receive not more than twelve dollars per month; said teacher shall receive what money shall be drawn from the county treasurer as soon as it is available and for the balance of his salary (if any) he shall wait until October first, 1860, without interest. Said teacher shall board free of charge with the parents or guardians of the children attending school, according to the number of children sent, and it is further made the duty of parents and guardians, sending children to school, to furnish their children with seats and desks and all other necessities and also to furnish a sufficient amount of wood free to the district. Francis J. Craig, Clerk.

In 1859 fifty-seven were in attendance in the first schoolhouse. The attendance increased rapidly as young men and young women, with the children, found that school was a profitable place to spend a few hours each day during the winter months. In 1864 a small frame schoolhouse was built east of the Greenfield church. Many of our prominent citizens attended this school. Among those who taught it are found the following: M. A. Maland, 1872; Ida Ferris, 1872; Toller Sanderson, 1874; Nellie Gaustad, 1878; Maria Adams, 1882; Nettie Dean, 1883; L. E. Gossman, 1883; P. B. Rammer, 1884.

The foundation of Harmony had been laid and the pioneers, realizing its favorable surroundings, saw fine prospects for a thriving village. After consideration it was decided to build a two-story schoolhouse here. This building, which is now part of the Arlington Hotel, faced the east toward main street. In the lower room Miss Farrell, now Mrs. J. H. Pulver, taught the primary grades. The building was lighted by windows on the north and south. The rooms were heated by large stoves, placed in the center of the room. The teacher generally served as janitor, or kept the troublesome boy busy by allowing him to carry in the big sticks of wood.

The following were principals in this building: W. R. C. Duxbury, 1886; J. H. Duxbury, 1887; J. D. Stoud, 1888; E. W. G. Vogenitz, 1889; S. C. Vordale, 1890; E. G. Vosburgh, 1891; W. E. Cummings, 1892; J. T. Kepple, 1893; Walter Cooper, 1894; J. F. Jones, 1895. The attendance was from 88 to 143.

In 1895 a small building in the north part of the town was rented and used as a schoolroom because of the crowded condition of the schoolhouse. In this building which the pupils spoke of as the "school in the sink hole" Rupert Barnes instructed the intermediate grades. This same year many plans were made to provide room for the increasing attendance. After due consideration the voters decided to build a four room schoolhouse on what is the present site. This site contains one and one-half acres and is very centrally located.

F. W. Gates was the first principal in the new building. Three rooms were used in 1897, but the following year the fourth room was finished and another teacher added, with J. F.



Jones as principal. In 1900 C. F. Elford introduced some high school work. It was not divided, however, from the grade work and because of disadvantages was not recognized as of importance until, the following year, C. G. Selvig became the principal. That same year a fifth teacher was hired and a first year high school class was organized and instructed in connection with the eighth grade. That year the attendance jumped to 205 and more room again became necessary. In the summer of 1902 an addition of four rooms were added on the east of the building, the old part somewhat remodelled, and a steam heating plant installed to heat the entire building. The enrollment increased to 270 this year. The school was admitted to the state high school list in 1893 and in 1895 the first class, consisting of 9, was graduated. Eight teachers were employed in 1895. Supt. Selvig was succeeded in 1907 by F. E. Maxson who was succeeded in 1910 by the present superintendent, R. L. Mason. A new brick building for the high school was erected right east of the old building in 1910. This is a modern building in every respect and contains rooms for the high school, agricultural department, domestic science, manual training, library, reading room, superintendent's office, etc. The enrollment now exceeds 300. No high school in the county has grown so fast in the last dozen years. This year's graduating class numbered twelve.

The school is excellently equipped in every way. It gives a general education and has special courses in general science, agriculture and industry.

The school board consists of L. O. Haugen, president; C. B. Hellickson, secretary; Tollef Sanderson, treasurer; F. A. Gowdy, Halvor Benson and T. F. Hallisy.—Contributed by L. O. Haugen.

**Reminiscences of Uriah Williams.**—Uriah Williams, an early settler of Jordan, and for many years a town and school officer, has prepared for this history the following story of the early days as he observed them.

In the fall of 1855 I left Springfield, Illinois, went to Dunleath, Ill., by train, and came up the Mississippi on a steamboat, landing at Winona. I arrived in the evening, but so anxious was I to be on my way, that I left my trunk there, and walked eighteen miles, before seeking a night's rest at a farm house. The next morning I shouldered my fourteen pound rifle and started on my way, reaching Chatfield in the evening. Chatfield was then a small village with only a few buildings. I stayed over night, and the next day walked out to Richard Hawkins', on the place now owned by Will. Liebold. Later George Malone drove to Winona and got my trunk for me. I spent that winter with Mr. Malone on the place now owned by S. F. Leonard. There was but little to do but hunt and eat. One day while tracking a black bear, of which I never saw more than the tracks, I discovered the spring from which I have since been drinking; and as a reminder of the trip, I froze my big toe for the first time. I had a little money, and a land warrant calling for 120 acres, which I had purchased at Monroe, Wis., at ninety cents an acre. I was not long in staking out 120 acres around the spring. December 16, I went to the land office in Brownsville for the purpose of preempting my claim. In the party were

John Ray, Jessie Hartshorn, Bush Mosier and myself. We went to Preston with a horse team and wagon, and spent the night in a little log hotel. When we arose we found that fourteen inches of snow covered the ground. So we left our wagon and started out with the two horses, taking turns riding horseback, the two men walking following in the tracks of the horses. When we reached Bellville, we met a party of ten men on from Pleasant Grove. We left one team of horses there, and all fourteen started out in one sled. When we came to hills we would get out and walk, all except the driver and Dave Everetts. Dave was a singer, and as he disliked to walk in the snow, he stayed in the sled and sang, while we walked. That evening we arrived at the "7 by 9" house, kept by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ober, who afterward opened the Minnesota House in Preston. They had two beds and plenty of sheep skins, so we spent the night in and around the beds, while Mr. and Mrs. Ober slept in chairs. The food was plenty and excellent. We continued the journey to Brownsville, transacted our business, and stayed together until we again reached Bellville. Thirty-five years later I met one of the party, Mr. Stuckman, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. S. F. Leonard, and I had to tell him where I first met him. I met others of the party once in a while for several years, but some I have not seen since. So far as I know, I am the only one of the fourteen now living.

The next spring I worked on my own place, grubbing and breaking ten acres, boarding in the meantime with Mr. Malone. I sowed turnips July 3, and the next day attended a celebration at the home of Greenbury Steer, now owned by E. A. Leonard. They had a few home-made speeches, but no lemonade or firecrackers. But we had a magnificent dance on a platform made of planks borrowed from the Johnson Stout stone mill. Richard Malone and Tom Trotter played the fiddles; Amos Steer and I did the calling. We had a parade about noon, forming two by two, and marching in a half circle. Of those that were there Caleb Comstock, H. E. King and myself are the only ones that I know to be still living. H. E. was then rather small and hung tightly to his mother's skirts.

July 5, I commenced work for Dave Greiner and George Malone, helping them build their combined flour and saw mill. We built the dam and dug that race that summer and completed it that winter. At that time there was only one house on the present site of the village of Washington, that house being a little shanty standing near the spring, and owned by a man named Asher Turner.

The summer of 1857 I spent on my own place, grubbing and breaking the land and selling putting in seed. I raised some of the finest wheat I have ever seen, selling it to the neighbors as seed at \$1.50 a bushel. The next winter I worked at the Greiner mill with John Cozad. He and I had to keep it running night and day to keep it from freezing. We sawed over 90,000 feet of lumber, sawing the most logs and having the most water ever known in the history of the mill. Mill and owners are long since gone.

In the spring of 1858 I rented my place and operated a breaking plow for John Cozad on shares. He owned and conducted the farm now owned

by Fred Jecke. Times were hard and for a few years I worked at odd jobs and rented my farm. There was little money and I came near working for nothing and boarding myself. I hauled some of my share of wheat to Chaffield and sold it to C. M. Lovell at thirty-one cents a bushel, receiving my pay in gold.

In 1861 I was married. The record in the family Bible reads: "Uriah Williams and Sarah Merriman were married April 30, 1861, at the residence of William Merriman, between the hours of eight and nine o'clock in the evening. By the Rev. Mr. Okey, Minister."

I had built my house with the assistance of Abraham Long, the structure being 16 by 22 feet, one and a half stories high, with siding and finishing lumber hauled from Winona. The bridal tour of my wife and myself was a walk from her father's home to our new home, a distance of one mile. Her father lived on the farm now owned by Al. Leibold.

I was elected assessor at the town meeting held at the Kedron school house getting eighty-four votes against G. W. Knight, who received thirty. I assessed the town that year in sixteen days, receiving \$1.00 per day, and being allowed \$1.50 in addition for making returns to Preston, twenty-four miles distant. The assessor now receives \$50.00 for assessing the town. The next spring I was elected by a larger majority, getting eighty-nine out of the ninety-five votes cast. I did not qualify and was then appointed, but refused to serve.

That fall I bought a yoke of oxen from my father-in-law, for \$50.00, on time, and commenced farming, plowing the ground, and sowing the grain by hand, "dragging" it in. I plowed corn by taking out the front tooth of a seven-tooth cultivator, straddling the row. I cut grain with a cradle and threshed it with a horse power machine. One year I mowed sixteen acres of oats with a scythe. I threshed them in January, with a horse power apparatus owned and conducted by Richard Gill and James Jallings. We could not stake the apparatus down, so we dug trenches, set the apparatus in them, brought water, poured it in the trenches, and froze it down solid.

Our grain markets in those days were Winona, St. Charles, Eyota and Rochester. Rochester which was eighteen miles away being the nearest. We received our mail from Jordan postoffice. For a time the postoffice was on a farm known as the "Bill" Hutton farm. Gillis & Hatch owned the log building and conducted the postoffice. They also had a few groceries for sale. After a few years the place was discontinued and a new one established at James Tedman's about eighty rods west of where the village of Washington now stands. Then he moved it to the present site of Washington, where he conducted the postoffice and sold a few groceries and notions. Boquette & Barnes conducted a blacksmith shop for a few years just south of what is now known as Coole corners, on the south side of the road. Jessie Harahorn was conducting a mill at what was known as "Slabtown" on the present site of the Kilbourn Roller Mill. This was on a school section. The timber disappeared from this school section and no one knows where it went to. T. O. Kilbourn purchased the property after a few years and established the Union Roller Mill which he conducted most successfully up to

a few years ago, when he built a mill at Spring Valley and moved part of the old mill and machinery to the new location. The old mill is now conducted as a feed mill. Mr. Kilbourn died in November, 1911.

There were only a few shanties at Hamilton when I came here. Walter, Nathan and Daniel Booth lived there. A man by the name of Randall kept the postoffice in his store. There was also a blacksmith shop there. The owners of the village expected that the railroad was coming through and that the place would be a second Chicago. The railroad did not come, the farmers had misfortunes with their swine, and a city did not materialize. Most of the village is now used for farming purposes.

Johnson A. Stout and W. L. Horton built the stone mill soon after I came here, and conducted it for several years. Mr. Stout later sold his interest in the mill to his partner. Then he, with his brother Joe, and a Mr. Hammer, built the tunnel mill and a small store. But they did not succeed in establishing a good market for their flour, and in a few years, Joe Stout and Mr. Hammer withdrew, and J. A. conducted it alone for several years, later renting it to the Greiner Brothers for a year at \$11,000 a year. The mill was afterward sold for less than what had previously been received for one year's rent. E. A. Leonard now owns the mill and uses it for a feed mill. The old stone mill has been torn down and the stone used for the foundations of other buildings.

We organized school district 123, after a good deal of argument. We called the meeting finally at the home of Philo Bradley, and voted to build a log schoolhouse on the northeast corner of section 23, 104, 13, then owned by George Malone. I do not remember the exact date, but I think it was in December, 1856 or 1857. I was elected clerk; Philo Bradley, director; and Solon Truscott treasurer. Martha Gill taught the first school. The schoolhouse burned down the night after our school meeting in 1875, and in 1876 we built a brick schoolhouse on section 14, eighty rods north of where the log schoolhouse stood. Elwin Smith taught the first term of school in this building. The brick schoolhouse proved unsafe, after a few years' use, and in the spring of 1887, we tore it down and built a frame house. We had school that fall. Mary E. Marshall taught the first school in the new frame building. The early records have not been preserved. I was treasurer of this district seventeen consecutive years. In the early days, and have held the office several times since. H. E. King was clerk nearly forty years without a break, and did not give up the office until the last meeting in July, 1911, when he moved to Stewartville to live. I am the only one left in the district who was here when it was organized. In 1888 there were forty-seven scholars on the roll call; in 1905 but two attended school in the district; there are now nine of school age in the district.

Summer township was organized on Tuesday, May 11, 1858, at the home of L. W. Corey, on the farm now owned by E. A. Leonard, the Friends church being now on the southeast corner of it. William B. Melvin was chosen chairman; Charles D. Sherwood was elected moderator; and Walter S. Booth was elected clerk. H. P. Sleeper and H. Plummer were appointed judges of election. Two ballot



boxes were provided, one for depositing votes for town offices, and the other for the votes designating the place for the next annual meeting. The citizens voted \$150.00 to defray the necessary expenses of the town for the ensuing year. They designated a fence four and a half feet high as a lawful fence, and decided that cattle and horses should run at large with rights of free commons from the first of May to the first of November. Sheep and hogs were not to have the right of free commons. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the polls were declared closed by the moderator, and the judges and moderator proceeded to count the votes, the result being as follows: Place of voting: for Martin Kicker's place, 88; for Hamilton, 53; for Sumner Center, 2. For supervisors: chairman, C. D. Sherwood, 70; Joseph Koff, 69; William H. Dean, 1; second member, G. W. Knight, 88; John E. King, 50; for third member, James H. Tedman, 99; Isaac Steer, 37. Town clerk, D. L. Booth, 78; M. J. Hoag, 47; W. S. Booth, 1; W. H. Dean, 1. Assessor, John Jolly, 88; William B. Melvin, 47. Collector, William S. Horton, 92; George A. Hayes, 48. Overseer of the poor, L. Chamberlain, 84; John E. King, 52. Constables, D. C. Hendershott, 76; Benj. Day, 56; W. H. Ciarno, 133; W. S. Booth, 1. Justices of the peace, C. Brownwell, 133; W. S. Booth, 80; C. D. Sherwood, 57. For a time our meetings were held in various places, sometimes at Hamilton and sometimes at the Kedron schoolhouse. On Tuesday, March 14, 1876, we held our meeting in our new Sumner town hall for the first time. I have held the office of chairman of the board of supervisors several times and have been a member of the side board many times.

We had a good many years' hard work getting our roads cleared and graded and bridges built across the streams. The south half of the town was more or less timbered and hilly with a good many streams to cross. The north half was rather too level with a good many sloughs to go through. But we have the roads all cleared and graded and the streams bridged. We have four steel bridges, and several arch bridges built of stone, and many of the culverts are of steel. Few planks are now used, their place being taken by steel and concrete.

There were 143 votes cast at the first election. I do not think there are that many voters in Sumner today. Every quarter section then had a shanty on it and a family in the shanty. There were also shanties on some of the eighties.

I have sold dressed pork for \$14.00 per 100 pounds; the cheapest was \$2.60 a hundred pounds. I have sold wheat for \$2.10 per bushel; the cheapest was thirty-one cents. I have sold oats for \$1.00 a bushel; the cheapest was twelve cents. The most I ever received for a good horse was \$220 and the lowest \$50. I have received \$3.00 for labor in the harvest fields; I have hauled rails from the timber for fifty cents a day and boarded myself. I have paid \$1.00 for two and a half pounds of sugar, fifty cents for calico, and seventy cents a yard for common sheeting.

The way we live now is in decided contrast to the way we lived in 1856 or 1861. Then we took two days with our ox teams to go to Rochester and back. Now the trip is made in autos in two hours. We burned candles in

those days because we had nothing else. Now a candle is a curiosity. Coal oil, gas or electricity are now used. The telephone saves much time and one does not have to break the horses' backs to get to the physician when the children have the colic. Everything is "hurry-up" now-a-days, but we used to have plenty of time. It used to take weeks for a letter to go to my old home, in Illinois. Now one can get a reply.

I am still living on the place I took in the early days, and I expect to be here the rest of my life. I am glad that I have lived through the years of the early development of one of the finest states in the union.

**Reminiscences of Miss Kate Little.**—Miss Kate Little, whose articles on uplift and historical subjects are well known in Fillmore county, has written for this work a story of her father's experiences in the early days as follows:

Duncan M. Little was born in Newark, Ohio, Dec. 17, 1813. Oct. 26, 1842, he married Elizabeth P. Hall. In 1850, they moved to Illinois, and there Mr. Little opened a grocery store. Dec. 12, 1851, his wife died, leaving him with a daughter, Kate, seven years of age. Mr. Little was in poor health, and was advised to lead an outdoor life. Consequently, while on a visit to his sister in Lansing, Iowa, he was easily induced to take a trip to Fillmore county, which was at that time attracting many settlers. He walked from Decorah, Iowa, and first looked over the land in the neighborhood of the present poor farm. As all the land there was taken, he looked further. He often related in after life his experience of spending a night at John Vail's house, on the present site of Preston, he and six other land seekers sleeping on the floor. In the morning he was offered the claim where Preston now stands for \$600. After looking about for a few days, he concluded to take a claim on the north line of Preston township, just three miles west of Preston village. He preempted this claim at Brownsville, Nov. 24, 1854.

At that time any man over twenty-one who would build a shanty and live in it a few days, could go to the land office then located in Brownsville, and by swearing that he wanted it for his own use, file his claim to 160 acres. He could preempt this at any time by paying \$1.25 an acre, or he could live on it until the government offered it for sale, at which time he had the first opportunity to purchase it at the same price. A man could preempt but once, and could not obtain more than 160 acres in this way. But before a man preempted a claim, he could sell his rights, and take a preemption in another place. The purchaser had to go to the land office and file his claim. As in many new countries, there were swindlers ready to allege ownership to claims they had no right to, and for fifty or a hundred dollars would sell the use of their preemption right over and over again to those who wished to obtain more land than they were entitled to.

Mr. Little hired a man and spent a month splitting rails on his new farm. The rest of the winter he spent at the house of Frank Tillotson on Richland Prairie. In the spring, Mr. Little went back to Illinois, and staying with his brother near Rock Island until the spring of 1856, when he again started for Minnesota, driving a herd of cows and calves, and bringing a

family to keep house for him. He arrived on his farm, May 29, 1856, and there resided until his death, Jan. 19, 1890. The family soon left him to take up a claim, and he had to do all his housework in addition to his farm labor. He made butter which he sold at thirty cents a pound in the village of Preston, which in the meantime had been started and was in a flourishing condition. That summer twenty acres of Mr. Little's farm were broken, the work being done by two men, guiding a large breaking plow, and driving five yolk of oxen. For such service five dollars an acre was paid, the men being given their board, and the cattle their feed. Even after the land was broken, it took from three to four years to get the soil entirely clear, as the oak roots left in the ground sprouted each spring. The only way to get rid of these "grubs" was to carry an axe and cut them off whenever the plow entered them. That summer Mr. Little raised a very good garden, having a little corn, plenty of potatoes, and some turnips and rutabagas.

In the fall he improved his cabin by placing several rounds of logs on top thus making it a story and a half high. The cabin had a board door with wooden hinges and a wooden latch. These wooden hinges were made by driving wooden pins with perforated flat heads into the ribs of the door, and into the door frame, then placing a wooden pin in the perforations, holding the door to the frame and allowing it to swing. The arrangement was satisfactory, but let in much cold and snow when the wind was blowing. The wooden latch was a long strip of wood, fastened to the inside of the door with a wooden pin, and resting in the notch of a pin driven into the door frame. A string fastened to this latch passed through a small hole in the door. When the string was pulled inside no one outside could open the door. This gave rise to the expression, "My latchstring is out." There was a small window opposite the door. A comfortable floor was made of slabs which had been cut three inches thick, the entire width of the log from which they were obtained. Under this floor was a hole where the potatoes and turnips were kept. A loft was formed of loose boards bought at the mill in Waukegoe. Rail steps led up stairs. This was quite out of the ordinary, as most of the cabins of that day had dirt floors; and those that had a loft had nothing in the way of stairs but pegs driven into the logs, one above the other. The roof was made of "shakes." These were split from logs four feet long and half an inch thick and eight inches wide. These "shakes" kept out the rain, but did not lie close enough to keep out the wind and drifting snow. There was a big fire place, but no stove. Mr. Little made all the furniture himself. The bedsteads were of round hickory for the frame, with ropes stretched across both ways, supporting a bed tick filled with hay, there being no straw as yet. The chairs were of round hickory with seats and backs of splint ash wood. One chair had rockers on it. These chairs were unusual, nearly everyone had three-legged stools.

Nov. 16, 1856, Mr. Little's daughter Kate came to him. This was no doubt company for him, but little help, as she was but twelve years old, and had been reared to study rather than to

do house work. When the stage driver, who had been told that her father's house was the only one he would find in that vicinity, stopped at the door, she demurred about getting out of the stage, saying she was sure her father would not live in such a place.

The winter of 1856-57 was long remembered as the "winter of the hard crust." It was not so cold as other winters have been, but it commenced early, and found the settlers unprepared for it, with no shelter for the animals, and little if any grain, and only prairie hay for their stock. Mr. Little was no exception to the rule. But fortunately he had traded the horse he drove here for a yoke of oxen. This gave him a team which wintered easier than a horse, which would probably not have lived. He killed and sold for beef what stock he could, but there were few to buy. But tallow candles were in demand at forty cents a dozen, so many evenings were spent in moulding them. In Mr. Little's diary we find that the first snow fell Nov. 21, followed by another on Nov. 23. On Dec. 3, the following entry was made, "A tremendous snow storm, drifting all night, sifting through every crack and crevice." A sleet, Dec. 10, covered the snow with "a crust as thick as a piece of glass which cut like a knife, making it hard to get about or to haul wood." There was another sleet forming a crust about three-quarters of an inch thick on the twenty-seventh. This would almost but not quite hold up a man, making it still harder to get about. Many had to go to town on snow shoes, taking a hand sled to bring home flour and a few groceries. Feb. 14, a thunder shower made another crust. On Feb. 15 and 16 came the first thaw of the winter, settling the snow which had three crusts. The coldest weather of the winter lasted but a day or so, but it snowed a little every day, and on Jan. 18 it was recorded that it had not snowed for nine days. There were no Indians that winter, but there had been many the winter before. Previous to this winter there had been plenty of deer. But the deer were not able to travel this winter on account of the crust, their small hoofs easily breaking through. Men could run them down on snow shoes, and many were slaughtered. Toward spring they were too poor to have their flesh of value and they were killed for their skins. There have been few if any deer in the county since that spring. There was no dry wood that winter, and it was impossible to get about with oxen. The nearest trees were cut for firewood, and pulled through the snow. The trees were green and the bark full of snow. Still there was no actual suffering or sickness.

"Bob" sleighs were unknown. The sleds were made of two long runners split from a tree, containing a natural crotch suitable for the purpose. It took several weeks to make such a sled, for the work had nearly all to be done evenings, the day-time being taken up with feeding the stock and getting the fuel, the fire place taking a large amount of wood. In March, when the winter broke up, the few settlers had completed their sleds, and had cut the roads, using wooden mauls to cut the crust. Cattle were driven back and forth to make the roads passable. Then the settlers began rushing logs to the sawmills for the purpose of getting needed lumber

for floors, roofs and other purposes. Everyone was determined to have enough shelter for stock the next winter. Needed cooking stoves, plows, and harrow teeth were hauled from Decorah, Iowa, as this was the nearest and best place where such articles could be procured. The condition of the roads was bad. Mr. Little made the trip in five days. He spent \$600.00. He carried his own quilts and blankets like everyone else, and paid \$1.50 for the privilege of sleeping on the floor in a house. The public houses usually had two beds. The first comers slept in the beds and the rest on the floor, but the price was the same.

The harrow teeth were placed in a "Y" shaped drag made from the crotch of a tree. Later sawed timbers with hinges were used for harrows. As no iron runners were obtainable the first few years, the sled runners wore out easily. The settlers soon learned, however, to make several runners out of the tree suitably crocheted, by taking the tree to the mill and having it sawed. This was a great improvement, but the runners often split where the strain came on them and where the grain was the wrong way.

The spring came late and was very dry at corn planting time. The fields had to be fenced, as the stock was allowed to run at large. The fences were seven rails high, staked at each corner. The stock had wintered very well, though the sleet had hung to their hides for several weeks. Few calves were lost that spring but some had to be brought into the cabins for a few hours. One neighbor wintered a small pig in the corner of his cabin. Seed corn was \$1.04 a bushel. Potatoes and oats were sixty cents a bushel. The older settlers on Richland Prairie had corn to seed to sell. Flour was \$2.65 a hundred pounds.

During the summer of 1857, Mr. Little put up a log barn with a board roof and floor. It was large enough for all his stock and had a loft capable of holding three loads of hay. He also fenced a barn yard, and a fifteen acre pasture for swine and cattle. That year he had plenty of corn, oats and wheat for flour and seed. There was plenty of wild hay, but no timothy or clover. Mr. Little found a little timothy growing in his door yard where some one had fed horses. He carefully preserved the seed, the first year, and raised a plot of timothy about a yard square. This continued to thrive, and in a year or two he had quite a large tract of tame hay before any of his neighbors.

There was little grain to sell and no market as yet. Everything in Preston had to be brought by team from Brownsville and Lansing. In 1859, hard work had impaired Mr. Little's health, so he rented his farm, putting up a hewn log house outside of the field. School district 48 was organized, a schoolhouse put up, and Emily Miller engaged as teacher for three months at \$14.00 a month.

In 1859 there was a market for grain at Winona. The roads were poor and not direct and it took seven days to make the trip. Twenty-eight bushels was a good load, and as but fifty-nine cents a bushel was paid at Winona, the returns were small. Those making the trips took along bedding and food for themselves, and hay and feed for the oxen, camping under the wagons or sleeping in straw piles. One neighbor who was

a mason worked at good wages in Preston while his wife and daughter worked the farm and marketed their wheat at Winona, driving two yoke of oxen and camping out along the way. Sept. 12, 1860, the vegetation was blighted by frost.

In 1861, Mr. Little built a granary. He secured the clapboards and shingles from Winona, and the rest of the lumber from logs which he took to Preston to be sawed. Before this the grain had been kept in rail pens, roofed with straw, the cracks in the sides also being stuffed with straw. Wheat that year brought fifty-eight cents a bushel, and a load brought \$16.55 at Winona. The roads were now shorter and better, and in making the trip to Winona the settlers were away from home but three nights. Wood was \$1.25 a cord in Preston. Mr. Little had his oxen so well trained that he could sit in the wagon and handle them as well as he could handle a team of horses. One was trained to work single, and Mr. Little used him when plowing corn.

During the war, Mr. Little raised a flag pole at one corner of his house. His daughter made a flag which was raised every day. There were some disloyal neighbors who threatened to tear down the flag, but they never dared try it either when he was home or when his daughter was home alone during his trips to Winona.

From Jan. 1 to Jan. 8, 1864, came the coldest weather experienced. That fall wheat sold at seventy-two cents a bushel and was marketed much easier, hotels being built along the road at frequent intervals, and camping out being no longer a necessity. Many had horse teams.

Jan. 1, 1866, Mr. Little moved into another and far better house. He had been getting ready for this home for two or three years, hauling a little lumber each year from Winona, there being little money to spare. Prices and roads were better, the farms were being improved each year, and times were prosperous.

The railroad from La Crosse soon reached Houston, and that became the market point for grain and swine, these being the principal products. The pioneers all killed their own hogs. One winter after the farmers had their swine ready for market, the weather was so warm and the roads so poor they all spoiled on their hands and were a total loss.

In 1867 the railroad reached Rushford. This was much better. Wheat rose to \$1.40 a bushel. Still later the railroad reached Lanesboro. The markets were near and prices were fair.

Mr. Little raised good stock. He had a fine herd of Poll-Angus cattle and was noted for many years for his fine breed of Poland-China hogs. His daughter Kate kept house for him all this time.

Mr. Little was a man of integrity and was noted for his well kept farm. An old neighbor wrote of him, many years after, "A fine country gentleman, a man of considerable dignity and pride, one from whom young men of the vicinity could and did get information on many subjects, especially farming. He had an excellent farm, some fine buildings, raised good crops, was a first class farmer and raised good cattle." At his death it was said of him "His word was as good as his bond." At his own request he is buried on a little grove of trees near the home he loved so well.

**Early Days in Rushford.**—The first store in Rushford city was built by Otis Batherick in the early spring of 1856. Another was built a little later by T. G. Fladeland. In the summer of 1859 the first hotel, later known as the Adams House, was built. The owners were C. G. Hulbert and Hugh Lampman, the former being the proprietor. In the sixties Gulick O. Laugen opened a hotel which he called the Rushford House.

At the time the Civil War broke out, the valleys were all settled and the prairies nearly so. Farms were under cultivation, and the people were prospering. When the call came for troops, Rushford was not lacking in patriotism. Rushford sent thirty-one men to the front, several of whom are now lying in graves at Gettysburg, Richmond, Murfreesboro and Nashville. With five exceptions, all who enlisted from here were young unmarried men. Twenty-one were Americans, eight Norwegians and two Germans. They were: George G. Stevens, Henry Hitchcock, Leslie Gore, Henry Stage, Arnold Newcomb, John Moore, Steven Emery, Jeff Bathrick, William Reppy, Albert Woodworth, Steven Otis, Onstine Laugen, Eric Iverson, Hans Lenvig, Tosten Holloque, William Stark, Byron Knapp, Eathan Hitchcock, Charles W. Gore, Herman Stage, Gamaliel Newcomb, Oliver Moore, David Coolidge, Andrew Bathrick, Gilbert Osborn, Charles Fuller, James Patten, Ole Laugen, Ole Lenvig, Asbin Zachariahson and Gregor Gulickson.

On January, 1867, the railroad came through, and for some time Rushford was the terminus. That summer the little place boomed. Factories were built, business houses went up, and the town became a noted grain market. In 1868 Rushford was incorporated as a city, the greater portion of it standing on what had been G. G. Stevens' cornfield.

The first blacksmith and plow maker in the city was Isaac Anderson, who settled on the north side of Rush Creek in the fall of 1854. He brought the first horse, G. S. West brought the first buggy in the fall of 1855, this being the first vehicle driven over the territorial road to Chatfield after the survey.

The first carpenters were Joshua Emery and Enoch Walworth, who settled here in 1856. The first shoemaker was John Iverson. He did business in 1858-59 in a little shop west of the present Presbyterian parsonage. The first stonemason was Edward Blanchfield.

The first marriage by a clergyman was in the spring of 1860 by Rev. W. W. Snell, who had been ordained in the winter of 1859. The contracting parties were Charles W. Gore and Martha Bartley, married March 14, 1860. The second marriage by Mr. Snell was that of George S. West and Mary I. Cameron, on July 3, 1860.

**Early Norwegian Events.**—O. P. Hadland, at the expense of considerable research, has gathered some information in regard to early Norwegian happenings in Fillmore county. The first Norwegian who settled in Fillmore county was Even Eilertson, who came to Newburg township in 1851. The first Norwegian clergyman to visit the county was Rev. V. Korn, who preached in the county in 1856. The first Norwegian congregation was organized in Arendahl in 1857 by Rev. A. E. Boyum. The first meeting house

or church was built by this congregation, 18 by 34 feet, in 1860.

**Canton Items.**—The following articles by William Willford are here presented as additions to the material on the same subject published elsewhere in this work.

**Canton Schools.**—The Canton village district was formed in 1881 by taking 40 acres each from districts 21, 24, 25 and 26. The first school in this district was taught by May L. Mason in the house of George Hudson in March, 1881. In 1882 a frame schoolhouse, 26 feet by 50 feet, two stories high, was built at a cost of about \$2,000. In 1904 the frame building that was considered too small to accommodate the numerous pupils in attendance was sold and a more commodious brick building was erected, the size of which was 52 feet by 60 feet, two stories high, besides the stone basement for the heating plant; the total cost of which was about \$12,000. This district has annually nine months school and employs four teachers.

**Elliota.**—The town of Elliota was located in the southwest part of what is now known as Canton township, being on section 32, town 101, range 9. It was platted for J. W. Elliott, the proprietor, by H. K. Averill, Jr., a Deputy United States Surveyor, on December 13, 1854, and was the second town platted in Fillmore county. When the Frink and Walker stage route from Dubuque, Iowa, to St. Paul, Minnesota, was created in 1854, a postoffice was established in this locality with J. W. Elliott as postmaster. He was succeeded by Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Wilcox, John Manuel and finally by Dr. R. A. Sturgeon, who surrendered the key of the pouch in April, 1882, when the office was discontinued. In the fall of 1853, after J. W. Elliott had staked off his claim on the southwest quarter of section 32, town 101, range 9, he decided to start a town on his claim and opened up a hotel and named it the "Elliott House." He then began to give away lots to the people that would improve them. Being anxious to boom the contemplated new village the proprietor engaged in the mercantile business with a small stock of goods, but the stock of merchandise was soon sold to another party. About this time another hotel was started by Andrew Cheeney, called the "Cheeney House." One of the first store buildings in this town was a large stone building erected by John Boone, with the words "Wholesale and Retail" artistically painted on the front. In the first part of the year 1854 a company was formed by J. W. Elliott and Andrew Cheeney which was known as the Elliott & Cheeney Mercantile Company. This company erred in judgment by putting in too large a stock of goods in this sparsely settled new country and soon found that the debit side of their ledger was greater than the credit side. On July 4, 1854, the sheriff of Fillmore county and his posse came from Carimona with four pairs of oxen and by virtue of a bill of sale that was given Keith & Company, of Chicago, Illinois, by J. W. Elliott and Andrew Cheeney, took possession of the Elliott & Cheeney stock of goods and removed them to Carimona, where they were sold at auction, Wm. H. Strong being the principal buyer. J. W. Elliott paid \$1200 and gave a quit claim deed on the south eighty acres of his land claim to liquidate the debt to Keith & Company. The first doctor to locate

in this village was Dr. Harvey Boone, who had a drug store. He remained only a short period of time, and was succeeded by Dr. S. A. Sturgeon, who was also the proprietor of a drug store in the place until 1882, when he removed to Canton. In 1859 John Manuel traded his farm in section 21, town 101, range 10 (Harmony township), to Keith & Company for the store building that was situated on the land that was transferred by J. W. Elliott to Keith & Company, and in this same year John Manuel and John O. Cook engaged in the mercantile business, which continued up to 1861, when John O. Cook sold his interest to L. O. Bliss, who later sold to John Manuel. John Blake engaged in the mercantile business in this village in 1862. In 1879 John Manuel erected a frame store building in this town that was 24 feet by 80 feet and removed his stock of goods into this new building. In January, 1880, the building and the stock of goods were removed to the new town of Canton. In 1875 a large flouring grist mill 30 feet by 30 feet, operated by wind power, was erected by the citizens of this town and vicinity at a cost of about \$13,500. The height of the tower of this mill was 90 feet, and the diameter of the wheel was sixty-two feet. This mill was operated about four years, when the stockholders began to realize that their investment was too high in the air for profit, and sold the flouring mill to a party in Easton, Faribault county, Minnesota, to which it was removed. In the "old time" days when the Frink & Walker four-horse stage coaches passed through this new western town it was known far and wide. At one time this town had four stores, two hotels, shops and other village concomitants that did a flourishing business and had bright prospects of becoming the greatest business center of the country. Today it has a deserted appearance, as the old business men of Elliot have removed to the new village of Canton and become some of the most successful men of that town.

Canton Village was located on the narrow gauge railroad that was built from Reno on the Mississippi river to Preston, Minnesota, in 1879, and is situated on sections 20, 21, 28 and 29, in town 101, range 9 (Canton township), on the dividing ridge that crosses the township. The narrow gauge railroad was widened to a standard gauge on the tenth day of November, 1901, and is now known as the Preston branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system. This town was platted and named by Frank Adams in October, 1879, and magically loomed up as a great grain and stock market with A. and T. McCormick of McGregor, Iowa, and McCormick & Company of Lansing, Iowa, as buyers. David Donald was the man that established the first dry goods store, and John Myers was the first man to erect a boarding shanty and officiate as landlord. Dr. H. H. Haskins was the proprietor of the first drug store and was the first doctor in the town. S. G. Sands built the first blacksmith shop and hammered iron. Day Brothers of Decorah, Iowa, and Edwards & Osborne of La Crosse, Wisconsin, were the first to establish lumber yards in this town and engage in selling pine knots. During the fall of 1879 James Young erected a large two story store building and engaged in a general merchandise business in

the lower story and the upper story was used as a residence for the family. During the first part of the winter following John Manuel, who had a store in Elliot, which was about three miles distant from the new town of Canton, moved his store building and stock of goods to the new town, and in January, 1880, commenced business in the village of Canton. About this time a postoffice was established and named Boomer, which was a name suggested by John Manuel, who had been commissioned the postmaster. In the latter part of the eighties this name did not sound well in the ears of the patrons of the office. The name of the village was Canton, the railroad station and the township were Canton, which created great confusion in business, and the postoffice department was asked to change the name from Boomer to Canton, which was readily done. In the summer of 1879 a proposition was made to the voters of Canton township to bond the township for twelve thousand dollars to assist in the construction of a narrow gauge railroad from the Mississippi river to Preston, which was at the first election voted down by a handsome majority. A second election was called in the middle of harvest and the bonds were voted. In the proposition made by the railroad company to the township of Canton as to the location of the depot, the railroad officials erred by stating that the depot should be erected nearest the east line of section twenty-one, instead of the west line of section twenty-one as was intended. In November, 1879, the bonds of \$12,000 were issued, bearing seven per cent interest, and to run twenty years unless sooner paid. The depot was first located nearly three-fourths of a mile east of the village of Canton to comply with the proposition, where it remained until the fall of 1881, when it was moved to the village on a flat car. At the spring election in 1882 it was voted to pay annually one thousand dollars of the principal and the accrued interest until the bonds were fully paid. At this writing Canton village has a population of 345. All branches of business are as well represented in this town as may be found in any other town of its size in Fillmore county.

The Canton Opera House, owned by the village, was built in 1892. Just now the house is being enlarged by an addition on rear. New seats, scenery, etc., will be forthcoming. Lecture courses are held every season and the opera house is well patronized.

Prosper is a hamlet of about 100 population in the Canton township, located on the Preston branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and situated on the section line between sections 35 and 36, about midway north and south of the sections. It is also on the dividing ridge that crosses the township of Canton. Soon after close of the war of the rebellion, E. B. Clark was instrumental in getting a postoffice established in this vicinity that was named Prosper, and was appointed postmaster and kept the office at his house on section 35 about one year, after which he was succeeded by Enoch Rollins, who lived across the state line in the state of Iowa. He was followed by John La Page, Joseph Ernst, F. R. Miles and Oscar Dahl, the present incumbent. In 1880 a sorghum mill was erected by six enterprising settlers

who had unbounded faith in the success of the new plant, which they had located on the west side of section 36 near the railroad. It had a four horse power press that was run by a fifteen horse power engine, and had a twenty-foot Cook evaporator. With these equipments it had a capacity of turning out several hundred gallons of syrup in a day. It was operated for only a short period of time and the enterprise was abandoned for various reasons. Shortly after the erection of the sorghum mill the railroad company put in a side track near the mill to accommodate the people in that vicinity, and this soon became an important shipping point. In this same year Frank R. Miles engaged in the mercantile business at this station, and secured the Prosper postoffice which he kept in his store. From this time on the Hamlet of Prosper continued to grow in the way of business as the name indicates until today every branch of business found represented in the township is to be found in Prosper. The bank, lumber yard and creamery were established in this hamlet in the year 1911.

Lenora is the second town platted in the township of Canton, and the fourteenth sister among the villages of Fillmore county. It was located in the southern part of the picturesque Richland Prairie, and was platted by the proprietor, Rev. J. L. Dyer, on April 19, 1856, in section 2, town 101, range 9. The proprietor of this village, like the proprietors of other "boomlets" at this period of time, no doubt imagined untold riches coming to him when the boom should come his way, as the advantages of his townsite was its surroundings of fertile farm lands, which gave it a promising existence, and would have continued had it not been for the encroachment of the railroads. The first store building erected and stocked with goods was by Joshua Dyer, a son of the proprietor, in 1856. The first postmaster was Charles B. Willford, who was commissioned on October 22, 1856, with Joshua Dyer as his deputy who kept the office in his

store. The first man to establish a blacksmith shop in this village was John Miller, in the fall of 1856.

J. W. Goudy erected a hotel building in this new town in 1856 and officiated as the landlord. Dr. J. M. Wheat was the first physician. He started out in his profession in 1856 and had an extensive practice. A portable steam saw mill, of which Elias Watkins was the owner, commenced to make lumber in this town in the fall of 1856. This saw mill was hauled overland from Dunieith, Illinois, by J. L. and Chas. Willford and Henry Pennock, with five pairs of oxen, in the summer of 1856. This steam saw mill is believed to be the first of its kind in the county. It was sold in the fall of 1857 and moved away, and another saw mill, of much larger capacity, was erected by Benjamin Dobell, Jr. The building was two stories high; the upper story being used by Jacob Gage and Robert Armstrong, who manufactured furniture. This saw mill, owing to the panic of 1857 and 1858, did not prove to be a remunerative investment and was operated only a few years. The census of 1910 gave Lenora a population of 73 persons.

Soldiers Enlisted from Canton Township During the Rebellion.—First Infantry—Henry M. Morey, Co. B; Lewis Kimball, Co. C. Fourth Regiment, Co. C—James L. Willford, Robert Gilbert. Seventh Regiment, Co. E—John F. Marsh, captain, George W. Graham, Jonathan Myers, John Glass, Amos Newell, Herman Wilbur. Eighth Infantry, Co. D—John Thompson. Ninth Infantry, Co. E—Joel Rush. First Heavy Artillery, Co. A—Hiram J. Willsie; Co. B—Lyman B. Carpenter, Peter M. Franklin, Campbell W. Graham, James McDonald, Lyman G. Stevens, Harvey Franklin, Randall Fay, George McMaster. Second Cavalry, Co. A—William T. Stevens (first sergeant), Alfred Bowman, Gottlieb Busse, William H. Graham, Anton Kleever, Charles Taylor, Henry Graham, Eugene Dexter, Charles Schindle, George Turner. First Battery Light Artillery—Frederick Flohr (artificer), Daniel Myers, Isaac Rush.



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